



Jordan Times

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Arab mayors in Israel strike over budgets

TEL AVIV (R) — Mayors of Arab communities inside Israel, camping outside government offices as part of a strike for bigger budgets, accused the Jewish state Friday of discriminating against them. "We are equal when it comes to payment of taxes but our rights are being violated," said Rafiq Al Haj Yahia, mayor of the town of Taibeh. Mr. Yahia and some 45 other heads of Arab towns and villages in Israel began an indefinite strike Sunday, saying they can no longer pay their employees' salaries. They have been sleeping in tents in a park across from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office since then. The mayors said the average budget allocation to municipalities per person for 1990 was \$238 for Arabs compared to \$650 for Jews. More than 700,000 Arabs live among some 4.2 million Jews in Israel, excluding the occupied territories. "We are not quitting our strike until we achieve full equality with our Jewish brothers," Mr. Yahia said. The striking mayors said extremists had been harassing them. They said at least three activists of the anti-Arab Kach movement threw stones at a tent Tuesday, injuring one mayor. On Thursday night, the mayors said, callers speaking Hebrew and Yiddish demanded they stop their strike and threatened to forcibly remove them.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin start Soviet clean-up

Communist Party under siege throughout Soviet Union; Bessmertnykh among those booted out in purge of officials

Combined agency dispatches

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV and Boris Yeltsin carried out a sweeping purge of coup supporters Friday, and the Communist Party suffered a series of stunning blows for failing to oppose the takeover.

Mr. Gorbachev threw out his foreign minister, and the Communist Party was banned from the KGB, which for decades helped enforce Communist rule. He named a series of well-known reformers to replace those he fired, in a move coordinated with Mr. Yeltsin, who had led the resistance against the coup.

A confident Gorbachev told an audience at the Russian Federation parliament that the government would prosecute those responsible for the takeover. "They wanted to turn us into meat. They wanted to annihilate us, and for that they must bear the severe responsibility," the Soviet president said.

He accused the Communist Party Central Committee of panicking during the coup. "There are people who lost their heads, all sense of responsibility. You could even call them traitors."

At one point during the session, Mr. Gorbachev, prompted by Mr. Yeltsin, held up what he said were the minutes of a secret cabinet meeting during the coup that revealed who backed the emergency decrees. He said many of them "hemmed and hawed," but most voted in support of the takeover.

Mr. Gorbachev also sealed the Communist Party headquarters Friday to allow for a full investigation of party involvement in the coup.

In a series of increasingly acrimonious confrontations with Russian parliament deputies, Mr. Gorbachev defended the need to keep the Communist Party, but a number of lawmakers demanded that its activities be suspended.

The meeting displayed unprecedented openness in which deputies repeatedly interrupted Mr. Gorbachev and argued with him.

Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, the Russian federation leader who saved Mr. Gorbachev, met Friday for the first time since the coup collapsed to discuss the takeover and to deal with officials who backed the push.

The key new restrictions lapsed on the Communist Party Friday were:

— Party headquarters was sealed. Two thousand protesters block-

aded the building, declaring they were guarding against the removal of documents that might contain evidence linking party members to the coup attempt this week.

— Mr. Yeltsin signed an order suspending the activity of the hardline Russian branch of the Communist Party "pending a court determination of its involvement" in the coup.

— Acting KGB chief Leonid Shebarshin banned party activity in the KGB.

— Mr. Yeltsin banned political organizations from the Soviet military, the KGB and the Interior Ministry, which covers police agencies. All three ministries are located in the Russian Federation.

— Mr. Yeltsin also banned any political partisan activity in the Interior Ministry, which covers police agencies.

— Mr. Yeltsin suspended the publication of six party newspapers, charging they supported the coup by publishing the conspirators' announcements and nothing else. The six are Pravda, Sovetskaya Rossiya, Glasnost, Rabochaya Tribuna, Moskovskaya Pravda and Leninskoe Znamya.

— Mr. Yeltsin nationalized all of the Communist Party's hundreds of printing plants and publishing houses located in Russia. The party owns most publishers in the Soviet Union, including virtually all of the printing presses capable of publishing newspaper.

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King congratulates Gorbachev, Yeltsin

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev congratulating him on overcoming the "dangerous internal crisis which his country has been through during the last few days," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

"The peaceful end of the crisis was a great victory for legitimacy and a physical evidence of the awareness of the Soviet people and their support for your wise leadership," Petra quoted the cable as saying.

The King voiced pride in his personal friendship with Mr. Gorbachev and Jordan's friendship with the Soviet Union. "While reassuring you of my pride in our personal friendship and that of the Jordanian and Soviet peoples, I implore to God to protect you from any mishaps and to give you the might to pursue the march of perestroika and to continue to contribute to establishing a world dominated by justice, freedom and peace for all," the cable said.

The King also sent a cable to Russian President Boris Yeltsin congratulating him on the "peaceful end to the crisis and the victory of legitimacy and democracy in the Soviet Union." The King hailed Mr. Yeltsin's "courageous stand" during the crisis saying that his stand had a "decisive effect to bringing it to a peaceful end."

Group of Seven to review Soviet events

LONDON (AP) — Representatives of the seven major industrialized nations will meet in London next week to examine developments in the Soviet Union in the aftermath of the abortive coup. Prime Minister John Major's office said Friday.

Some critics charge that the failure to give the USSR financial aid may have contributed to the coup.

Mr. Major, current chairman of the so-called Group of Seven (G-7), called Thursday for a review by the main capitalist powers of their Soviet aid package.

But Mr. Major said Moscow needed advice and assistance, not "stacks of cash," so prospects of a massive cash handout seem remote.

A spokesman for the prime minister said Mr. Major decided Thursday that senior advisers to G-7 leaders should "meet to look at the new situation with the Soviet Union post-coup and take forward work on behalf of heads of government and report back."

No specific date has been set for next week's meeting, the spokesman said, and no follow-up meeting is scheduled for foreign ministers of the seven nations, which include Britain, France, Japan, the United States, Germany, Canada and Italy.

The Group of Seven leaders, who met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following their annual economic summit in July, offered the Soviet Union associate status in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). That would give the Soviet Union access to the institution's technical assistance but not its funds.

G-7 leaders felt Soviet reforms had not gone far enough to merit direct financial aid.

The leaders also offered technical assistance and moral support to begin a dialogue aimed at integrating the Soviet Union into the world economy.

Italy Thursday said it would press for full IMF membership for the Soviet Union.

Germany, the largest political and financial backer of the Soviet Union, reiterated Friday that the West should act quickly to increase aid to the Soviet Union now that the coup against President Gorbachev has failed.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman, Dieter Vogel, said: "The Western states can first transform the decisions of the London economic summit into reality, above all a special relationship (for the Soviet Union) with the international financial institutions."

Mr. Major noted Thursday that Mr. Gorbachev said he got everything he expected when he came to the G-7 meeting, including ongoing dialogue with the members. But his spokesman said Friday that the senior policy advisers would reexamine the group's decisions in light of the coup and its aftermath.

Mr. Vogel said "decisive reform policies" and the new union treaty between the Soviet republics and the central government should make possible "broad-based economic and financial support from the Western community of nations."

"Conditions for such (reform) policies have been improved" with the coup's failure, he said.

Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher said he expects the three Baltic republics will quickly win their independence following the crushed coup. "The will for independence by the Baltic people will now be put into effect quickly," Mr. Genscher said in a commentary in Saturday's Bremerhaven Nordsee-Zeitung. "Negotiations necessary for that will no longer be under the pressure of military intervention."

Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia said both Mr. Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, president of the huge Russian Republic and the man who rallied opponents of the coup, gave commitments in separate phone conversations to accelerate political and economic reform.

"There would be fast and further moves to a free market in the Soviet Union," Mr. Hawke said.

British opposition leader Neil Kinnock said the failure of the



Thousands of Soviet citizens gather in Moscow to celebrate the collapse of the coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev. The sign reads: "Our president is (Russian leader Boris) Yeltsin, (Vice-President Gennady) Yanayev's junta is overthrown."

Bush sees improved prospects for peace in Middle East

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush said Thursday that the failure of Kremlin hardliners to seize power in the Soviet Union improved prospects for peace in the Middle East.

At their Moscow summit three weeks ago, Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to work for a Middle East peace conference in October.

"With this turmoil in the Soviet Union hopefully behind us and with the Soviet Union being important in this, I see nothing but an improved chance," Mr. Bush said when asked how the abortive coup would affect the prospective negotiations.

Mr. Bush commented after meeting with Secretary of State James Baker, who told reporters he believed the Soviet Union would be "every bit as committed toward trying to create, jointly with us and others, an active and viable peace process in the Middle East as they were before."

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Israel have agreed, with conditions, to attend a peace conference, which would be the first broad peace talks between Arabs and Israelis.

The sticking point now is whether Palestinians will attend

and who will represent them.

"Some of you may have seen during the course of the coup where certain sources... praised the fact of the coup, those sources have shown an uncanny ability in the past to back losers, and this is another example of that," Mr. Baker said.

He apparently was alluding to Farouk Qaddoumi, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, who welcomed the coup attempt against Mr. Gorbachev.

While Mr. Baker did not say as much, U.S. officials are known to believe that the outcome of the Soviet political crisis will leave the so-called "rejectionist front" further isolated.

This accounts for the U.S. optimism that the Middle East peace process will not be set back by this week's dramatic developments in Moscow, the officials said.

"I don't know when we're going to see a final sorting out in Moscow and when we can resume our efforts," one senior U.S. official said.

Mr. Baker had been considering a seventh trip to the Middle East in mid-September before the political upheaval in Moscow and that has not been ruled out.

Mr. Shamir pointed at praise

for the attempt to overthrow Mr. Gorbachev by Palestinians, Libya and Iraq as a sign of continuing antagonism to Israel.

"These people saw in the changes in the Soviet Union a chance to return to the situation where Moscow stood on the side of the Arabs," the Israeli leader said.

"I expect that with Gorbachev's return to this position, the Soviet Union will fulfill its promise and restore full diplomatic relations with Israel," Mr. Shamir said.

"No progress in peace negotiations is possible in the region without full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the failure of the Soviet coup spurred hopes for Middle East peace but he was unsure if a proposed October peace conference would open up time.

The return of President Gorbachev to power in the Soviet Union is good tidings for international peace, democracy and the changes for peace in the Middle East," Mr. Shamir said in an interview printed in the daily

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Iraqi Kurdish leaders gather to debate autonomy proposals

DIYANAH, Iraq (R) — Having fought for independence for decades and failed, Kurdish leaders in Iraq gather this weekend to consider the lesser dream of autonomy.

Four months of talks in Baghdad have produced a draft accord that leaves much to good faith and future cooperation between the Kurds and the Iraqi government.

The document appears to set out a rough route rather than a road map for future steps on the way to an autonomous Kurdistan and leaves ambiguous the status of the important oil city of Kirkuk, claimed by Kurds, Arabs and Turkomans.

It consists of three "papers" that describe steps to normalise life after decades of strife in Iraqi Kurdistan identify new laws and political institutions required to implement autonomy and reveal shared political principles.

A fourth paper on how democracy would be established in Iraq turned into an exchange of notes rather than a formal document.

Autonomy talks began in April after Kurdish and Shiite Muslim rebellions created an exodus of up to two million refugees but failed to topple the government.

Discussions with members of the negotiating team and leaders of some of the eight groups in the Iraqi Kurdistan front reveal considerable anxiety about the result

of the weekend meeting.

"Anyone looking for a fight will find points to object to," says Mahmoud Osman, chairman of the Kurdistan Socialist Party and one of the negotiators. "Anyone looking to agree will find many points to rally around."

Kurdish sources say the paper on normalisation provides for the reconstruction of thousands of Kurdish villages.

It also envisions the resettlement of all those Kurds displaced by past Iraqi government actions and the eviction of Arabs who took possession of vacant Kurdish property.

The draft agreement leaves many details unsettled.

For instance, the normalisation paper calls for Iraq to fund the reconstruction and resettlement of Kurdistan on a "crash basis."

Resettling displaced Kurds is endorsed as a concept but no timetable or specific steps are listed.

The paper calls for repeal of all extraordinary laws placing Kurds at a disadvantage in employment, education and property rights reopening Sulaimaniya University, closed since 1982, readmission of Kurdish students to schools and reinstatement of Kurdish government officials in their jobs without penalty.

Kurdish negotiators say they were unable to wring further con-

cessions from Baghdad to improve on the draft agreement. Kurdistan Front leaders are likely to seek consensus rather than a quick vote on the draft this weekend.

"Patience is the key now," Sami Abdul-Rahman, chairman of the Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party, told Reuters.

"We need to maintain our unity above all else since it is our strongest weapon against Baghdad. Look at what the Soviet people accomplished by standing together against their government this week."

If the draft agreement is ratified and implemented, the autonomous region of Kurdistan will elect a legislature once life returns to normal. In the meantime, a group of about a dozen Kurdish ministers will manage the region's affairs.

After elections, the Iraqi president will nominate a prime minister for the autonomous region. The prime minister and his cabinet must then be confirmed by the Kurdish legislature.

The Iraqi president will have the power to dismiss the Kurdish prime minister and cabinet but not the legislature.

A special supreme court including Kurds and Arabs will be established to adjudicate disputes between the central government and the autonomous Kurdish region.

The 24 hours that shook Soviet Union

By Mark J. Pernbeck
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The 24 hours that ended with the toppling of a monument to the man who unleashed "red terror" in this troubled land were arguably the most dramatic in six years of reform.

The hours were also fraught with clues to the future.

Events spun madly from Thursday's first minutes, when thousands of Russians still locked arms to protect their parliament against military attack, to their climax at 11:28 p.m., when a statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky settled to the ground.

The coup attempt by hardline Communists clearly had failed. But it was equally clear at the end of the day that although Mr. Gorbachev was restored to his place, the country could never be the same.

"People power" and decentralization of authority were proven. During the same day, the power of police to threaten and intimidate was damaged, perhaps irreparably.

As Thursday passed from the damp and cool of pre-dawn to late summer sunshine and a moonlit night, Mr. Gorbachev returned to Moscow and proceeded to turn his security services and presidential staff upside down. He appeared before reporters to reveal how he had been kept isolated at his vacation home.

But all around Mr. Gorbachev — both president of his country and chief of the communist party — swirled a storm over which he had no control.

The interior minister, coup conspirator Boris Pugo, shot and killed himself rather than face arrest. The act was reminiscent of the pre-Gorbachev politics of conspiracy and violence that Pugo represented.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin rode a wave of resurgent pride among Russians, the Soviet Union's largest ethnic group, to even greater popularity and political power. His republic formally reverted to the white-red-and-

blue flag that once flew over the czar's empire.

The KGB apparently lost its ability to command obedience through intimidation and terror. Its chief was under arrest and its icon, the statue of Dzerzhinsky, was violated.

Baltic republics, threatened by harsh repression if the coup succeeded, made gains towards their cherished independence.

News Analysis

In no other day in the frequently dramatic six years since Mr. Gorbachev took power had there been a period when events tumbled past each other at such speed.

The biggest winners were in the 15 Soviet republics, whose leaders mostly resisted the coup because it would have meant an end to their push for more autonomy. The biggest winner of all was Mr. Yeltsin.

"Boris Yeltsin is now the centre and the symbol of initiative in the Soviet Union," said

radical Russian legislator Oleg Rumyantsev. He added he was "absolutely sure" that Mr. Yeltsin was now more politically powerful than Mr. Gorbachev.

Russians also celebrated at a jubilant rally an outpouring of ethnic pride for their resistance to the coup. The word "Russian" was on everyone's lips. The word "Soviet" was heard nowhere.

That emotion could energize them to rebuild their huge republic, but also give their smaller neighbours pause to worry about possible Russian expansion and domination.

In the Baltics, the coup turned out to their advantage. It seemed to prove to the rest of the world their long-stated suspicions about remaining part of the Soviet Union, and it emboldened them to make even stronger declarations of their independence.

More practically, the embarrassed Soviet security forces slunk away from buildings they

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Bakhtiar suspect blocks extradition

GENEVA (R) — An Iranian man held in Geneva on suspicion of having murdered former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar has refused to be extradited to France immediately, a Swiss spokesman said Friday. Justice Ministry spokesman Tony Kistler said the suspect, Ali Vahidi Rad, declined a request from a Swiss investigating judge to go to France under a simplified extradition procedure. He was arrested early Wednesday in Geneva. 15 days after Mr. Bakhtiar and his secretary were murdered in their Paris home. Mr. Bakhtiar was the last prime minister of the late Shah of Iran. Now Switzerland will await a formal extradition request from France within 18 days of Mr. Rad's detention. After studying such a request the federal justice authorities will make their decision, which the Iranian will be able to appeal before the federal supreme court. The court's verdict is final. "It can take several months. Otherwise it could have taken hours," Mr. Kistler said by telephone from the capital Bern. Mr. Rad flew into Paris from Tehran in July. He and two other Iranians are the last recorded as having visited Mr. Bakhtiar before his murder, and an international warrant was put out for their arrest. The two others are still at large.

New U.N. guards to Iraq

GENEVA (R) — New U.N. guards flew to Baghdad Friday to monitor the safety of Iraqi people, U.N. spokesman Theo Loir announced. He said 50 Nepalese, 25 Danes and already on the staff that the new U.N. facilities left Geneva Monday morning. They will boost the total in Iraq to 420. The U.N. has 1,500 troops in Iraq. They are armed but have been able to report on violence between the Iraqi army and the army in northern Iraq, and on movement of the Iraqi military into the marshes in the northwestern Iraq. This has enabled the U.N. representative for the area to take up these issues with Iraq's Iraqi government.

Ortega says Bush wanted help

MIAMI (R) — Toppled Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega Gorbachev weapons to be shipped to the U.S. president, said director of the Central Intelligence Agency, (CIA), Mr. William Webster, said in a court case Thursday. Mr. Noriega also permitted illegal shipments through Panama to the U.S. Enforcement Administration (DEA), the document said. Noriega, brought to Miami by the U.S. Navy, was being ousted during the invasion of Panama in December 1989, will go on trial on charges of trafficking charges on Sept. 12. The defense document, one of the first in the case, was filed on March 22 and was part of a court order that allows authorities to review documents to check for "classified material." It indicated Noriega may admit some trafficking charges during trial. His defense is expected to argue that he was cooperating with U.S. intelligence agencies.

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U.S. economic aid

WASHINGTON (R) — Saudi Arabia resumed economic aid to the Soviet Union Thursday after a pause during the attempted overthrow of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Saudi ambassador to the United States said that Prince Bandar bin Sultan said he was given authority to resume aid to the Soviet Union. Prince Bandar said that the Saudi king, King Fahd, said he had decided to resume aid to the Soviet Union. The economic aid to the Soviet Union is in the form of loans and grants. Saudi support for the Soviet Union during the Gulf war was a major factor in the Saudi decision to resume aid to the Soviet Union.

Resentenced

ROLETTE, North Carolina (R) — A U.S. judge Friday ruled that the original 45-year prison term of a disgraced television newsman, Jim Bakker, be reinstated. Judge William H. Miller said Bakker, 51, was sentenced to 45 years in prison for federal conspiracy charges for his role in the collapse of the "Praise the Lord" ministry. Bakker, the host of the "Praise the Lord" ministry, was convicted in 1989 of federal conspiracy charges for his role in the collapse of the "Praise the Lord" ministry. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison for federal conspiracy charges for his role in the collapse of the "Praise the Lord" ministry.

Bill would bar

DOHA (R) — India introduced a bill Friday to stop its nuclear industry from being used for military purposes. The bill would prohibit the export of nuclear technology to any country that is not a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The bill would also prohibit the export of nuclear technology to any country that is not a member of the NPT.

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Coalition building: The divisive politics of the left and right

This is the third article of a four-part series on the establishment of political parties in Jordan as part of its ongoing democratisation movement. In this article, the writer describes the problems of liberal and conservative parties as they try to build coalitions.

By Marwan M. Shalabi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — New political groupings are finding that they share many of the same problems with established political parties as they try to organise themselves to take advantage of the expected passage of the Political Parties Law.

But while they may be plagued by the same organisational problems, they often have different prescriptions for solving them.

The very nature of a political party or group seems to dictate at least some of the organisational problems that they may face. Independent political observers have noted that left wing parties often have organisational problems in reaching a consensus on most issues than parties which are conservative or religious.

"The stated nature of conservative and religious parties is in and of itself more absolutist and somewhat dictatorial," said one of the five current ministers who is a member of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Coalition (JAN-DA).

Preferring anonymity because of his cabinet post, the minister said that "leftists are in theory more liberal and thus often rebel against a decision they feel may be imposed on them."

Splits in the Jordanian left are foreseen and some have already occurred as a result of the differences in opinion. One of the most notable public splits within an existing political group occurred last year, when a group belonging to the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP) split to form the Jordan Democratic Party (JDP).

Members and leaders of both groups agreed on basic socialist principles but differed in their application. As a result and much to the detriment of leftists in Jordan, there was a split within the party shortly after the JPDP was founded.

Analysts say that much of the turmoil that leftist parties

are facing in Jordan and worldwide can be correlated to changes in the Soviet Union and the opening up of its Communist Party.

Yusef Hourani, member of the political bureau of the Jordanian Democratic Party, which split from the JPDP last August, feels that a new dialogue is emerging among leftists.

"Because most of us lived in an atmosphere of fear and oppression during the years when political activities were outlawed, we became like our oppressors and distanced ourselves from a democratic system," Mr. Hourani recently told the Jordan Times.

"Inside our parties," "there were dictators. Then there was a rebellion against this and now we are in the process of a dialogue," Mr. Hourani said.

He argues that leftist parties must remain revolutionary if they intend to continue being progressive. "There is no real progress in a dictatorship. Only dialogue and the willingness to change pragmatically to meet the ever changing needs of people will make a leftist party genuinely successful," he said.

Recent talk of reform within the Jordanian Communist Party has led to internal splits. A Communist party member recently told the Jordan Times that the dispute is two-fold: "There is a split in the leadership and then there is an expected difference of opinion between the leadership and its followers," he said.

"That's why there has been no general congress, because the leadership fears it may lose control," he said on condition of anonymity.

While the left is busy discussing inter-party pluralism, the conservative groups appear to be consolidating their power by organising a coalition of groups and organisations which share their ideological orientation.

Headed by the recently established Al Ahd Party, a congress of 70 "groups and

personalities" are expected to meet in early September to form an organised conservative coalition.

Retired Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Al Ahd's founder, calls his party centrist. But political observers have labelled the party as one which is right wing in that it promotes the interests of the traditional establishment.

Mr. Majali says that his party will actively target all citizens not already involved in left-wing or Islamic politics. "Most people in Jordan are not politically organised, thus our constituency is potentially very large," Mr. Majali said in a recent interview.

Having invited a large number of originally West Bank personalities to attend the congress in September and join the coalition, Al Ahd has diffused rumors that it was an exclusively East Bank party.

"Our opponents have charged that we are regionalist and differentiate between East and West Bank Jordanians. The make-up of our parties and coalition will prove otherwise," Mr. Majali said.

Regardless of any intent to strengthen the east-west bank divide, many political observers believe that popular participation by west bank Jordanians, both in leadership positions and at the polls, will dramatically increase during the next Parliamentary elections.

"The lines have been drawn," said one government official. "Many Palestinians in Jordan now believe that they will never return to Palestine. Thus their participation in the political make-up of Jordan will increase."

"Many more Palestinian Jordanians are likely to run in the next legislative elections," said the official who asked to remain anonymous. During the last elections, many felt that east bank Jordanians had more of a right to be in Parliament, next time this will be different."

Left or right, religious or secular, any party wishing to be powerful in Jordan must attract what is known to many politicians as the "west bank vote," analysts said.



Queen Noor turns 40

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrated her 40th birthday Friday.

Throughout her years of marriage to His Majesty King Hussein, Queen Noor has actively promoted integrated human and socio-economic development in the country.

The Noor al Hussein Foundation, which she founded in 1985, is now Jordan's leading non-governmental organisation in the service of total human development and has set new standards in the country's efforts to enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities.

Numerous women and needy communities throughout the Kingdom are benefiting from the Foundation's extensive range of integrated development projects and programmes in the areas of health, nutrition, education, culture, art and the environment. They are also enjoying improved standards of living as a result of the innovative income generating schemes in small scale industries, agriculture, agro-industries, crafts and self-employing businesses which the Foundation has helped them establish and implement.

NHF's innovative rural development projects have been recognised internationally by the UNFPA and the WHO as prototype models of successful development for the region.

During the past year, Queen Noor urged flexible and responsive cooperation and coordination among Jordanian institutions to address Jordan's new economic realities and human needs.

Short term relief for the most needy, especially those returning from the Gulf war extended by the Noor al Hussein Foundation, working hand in hand with other concerned institutions. Longer term income generating projects

were also established to help repatriates and others affected by the crisis find jobs and establish self-reliant means of livelihood.

Queen Noor's involvement with humanitarian issues has received international recognition, especially this past year as she played a key role in focusing world attention on the plight of the hundreds of thousands of evacuees who fled the Gulf war across Jordan and in mobilising international aid for their well-being and repatriation.

During and after the Gulf crisis, the Queen worked continuously to promote international understanding of the facts and principles underlying Jordan's position during the crisis and of Jordan's role as a political, humanitarian and socio-economic development model for the Middle East region.

During several working visits to the United States and Europe, Queen Noor addressed international affairs organisations, promoted Jordanian archaeological and ethnographic exhibitions, and contributed actively to Jordan's efforts to revitalise tourism into the country in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

The Queen also represented King Hussein at the World Summit for Children in New York last October and emphasised the Declaration's provisions regarding commitment to protect children and their families from the scourge of war.

Queen Noor has a degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University in the U.S.A. She has received honorary doctorates from several universities and international awards in recognition of her efforts to promote human development and global understanding. The Queen is also a patron of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N.).

Special ceremony held in memory of the late Abdul Wahab Al Majali

KARAK (Petra) — A special ceremony was held Thursday at Mutah University in remembrance of the late Abdul Wahab Al Majali, who passed away in Amman last month and was laid to rest in his hometown of Yarut, in the Karak governorate.

The late Mr. Majali was born in Yarut in 1924, where he attended high school. Then he pursued his higher education and earned a law degree from the University of Damascus in 1945.

Mr. Majali held a number of prominent posts in government, including Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister from 1985 to 1987.

Addressing the ceremony were a number of prominent Jordanian figures, including Senate Member Hamad Al Farhan, Dr. Jamal Shaer, Dr. Khalil Al Salem, the general mufti of Jordan Sheikh Izzuddin Al Khatib, Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bayt Foundation) President Naser Uddin Al Assad, and Ahmad Tarawneh.

Speakers recalled the late Mr. Majali's efforts in serving Jordan and building the national eco-



Abdul Wahab Al Majali

nomy and praised his dedication to his country and people.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport and Telecommunication Minister Ali Suheimat, a number of cabinet ministers, deputies and senate members. Also in attendance were a number of statesmen, the governor of Karak and the president of Mutah University.

Jordan to seek greater economic ties with Iran

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, seeking markets to replace those lost in the Gulf crisis, hopes normalised ties with Iran will provide a new business boom.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abu Al Ragheb was leading a trade team to Tehran on Friday, the first such trip to Iran in a decade.

Amman restored diplomatic ties with Tehran this year after backing Iraq during its 1980-88 war with Iran. "We hope Jordanian-Iranian ties will witness a new era of economic cooperation through sealing several new agreements to increase and develop bilateral trade," Mr. Ragheb said, adding that the huge Iranian market could absorb many of Jordan's products.

"Our new policy now is to try and get into non-traditional markets that will not be affected by any political developments," he told Reuters in an interview.

Oil-rich Gulf states, mainly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, once among Jordan's main importers, have not yet lifted a ban imposed on industrial and agricultural goods to punish Amman's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

They are giving trade preference to countries which participated in the U.S.-led military alliance which drove Iraq from Kuwait in February after its seven-month occupation.

Amman, observing U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, once its main trading partner, is now turning to new markets such as the United States, Europe and North Africa.

It has set up a 10-million-dinar (\$15 million) fund to support exports to non-traditional buyers but having difficulty cracking the tough European market.

Mr. Ragheb said Iran had agreed to

buy 250,000 tonnes of fertilisers in 1991 in a \$65 million deal.

He said talks were underway to sell a similar amount of phosphates in a deal he hoped would be concluded soon.

Mr. Ragheb said the warm invitation he had received from his Iranian counterpart to visit Tehran reflected Iran's readiness to favour Amman in industrial, commercial and services deals.

Jordanian businessmen believe that entry to the Iranian market will be easy because the government, rather than the private sector, retains control over major imports and exports and funds such deals, facilitating international trade.

Mr. Ragheb said Jordan could sell large volumes of clothing, carpeting and electrical appliances to Iran's trade-hungry 55-million population.

Jordanian-Iraqi border is site of heavy smuggling activity, security forces increase patrol of area

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian security forces have stepped up patrol along the border with Iraq and customs inspections at the border post have been tightened to counter what senior officials describe as an unprecedented rise in attempts to smuggle goods into Jordan and armed clashes with would-be smugglers.

"In addition to small arms — in some cases machineguns — automobile spare parts, electronic goods, industrial metal and cable lead the list of goods recently intercepted while on their way to Jordan," said one security source, who requested anonymity.

"On several occasions the smugglers refused to obey orders to stop and opened fire on security forces resulting in casualties," the source said. He declined to confirm or deny reports that at least two Jordanian security men were killed in shootouts in the desert.

However, the source confirmed that dozens of arrests have been made in the last few weeks and that suspects had been referred to the concerned authorities for legal proceedings.

"Extra forces have been deployed along the border and communication facilities have been improved and we hope that the situation is more or less under control now," said the source.

An abundance of new and used electronic goods in the Iraqi market at cheap prices is seen as having given rise to attempts at large-scale smuggling, officials say.

Most items being smuggled carry over 50 per cent Jordanian customs duties and successful smugglers' profits are relatively high.

Jordanian authorities have also adopted measures to foil smuggling through the regular border crossing point. Travellers from Iraq have reported strict inspections at the border post, which was moved 70 kilometres north to near the

Iraqi post of Trebil from Al Russeifah several weeks ago.

"The relatively relaxed procedures have disappeared," said Jordanian taxi driver Mutlaq Hussein.

"They now check every nook and corner of every vehicle. In some cases, they literally take the vehicle apart. It is very difficult to get anything into Jordan without detection these days."

In cases where it can be established that goods are brought into Jordan for personal purposes, the Customs Department applies the relevant procedures and allows the goods into the Kingdom after levying duties. Large-scale commercial shipments are not permitted, customs officials said.

The move of the border post to Trebil is aimed at closely monitoring cross-border movements and checking smuggling after repeated violations, a senior official said noting that the transfer was planned several months ago.

"It is a purely an administrative step aimed at enabling the security forces to strictly watch cross-border movements and counter smugglers," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

"The international sanctions against Iraq is strictly enforced by Jordan."

According to the security source, "smuggling attempts through the border post is mostly limited to electronic goods and spare parts. But attempts to smuggle in arms, metals and bulky vehicle spare parts take place across the desert."

Most of the electronic goods — radios, video recorders and players, cameras, television sets, tape recorders, etc. — as well as automobile spare parts are believed to come from Kuwait, which Iraq invaded in Aug. 2, 1990.

Relief officials have reported that many Iraqi families were selling their possessions to raise money to survive because of the rising cost of living resulting from the continued

international trade embargo on Iraq.

Visitors to the Iraqi capital say that it is a buyer's market in Baghdad for electronic goods and clothes.

Automobile dealers in Amman explained the paradoxical smuggling of spare parts into Jordan by noting that, in most cases, the goods could have come from Kuwait and that the market was better in the Kingdom for them since tens of thousands of vehicles have been brought into Jordan by expatriates from the emirate.

"Some of the American models have never been seen before in Jordan and the local market does not have the necessary spares," said a leading spare-parts dealer at Mahatta.

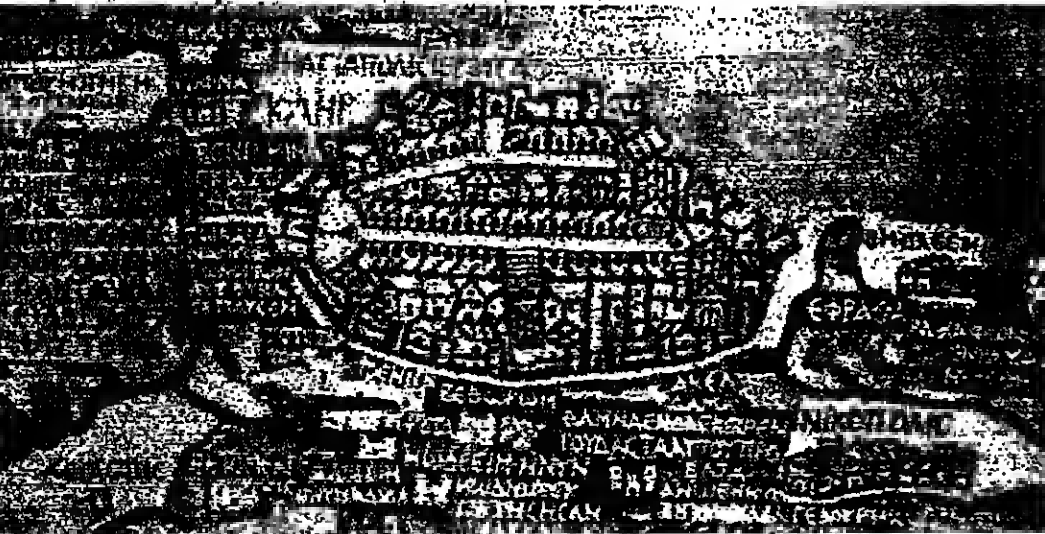
"But spares for these have somehow appeared in the market and they fetch very good prices since there is high demand."

Small arms surfaced in Baghdad following the quelling by the army of rebellions in the north and south in early March following the Gulf war and liberation of Kuwait. These arms are believed to have come from the south, where Iraq accused Iran of instigating the unrest and supplying arms to Iraqi Shiites.

Businessmen noted that Iraq had an abundance of industrial metal and cables in stock at its various production facilities before the imposition of international trade sanctions following the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"Thieves have targeted metals and cables in recent robberies in Iraq," said a Jordanian foodstuff merchant who frequently travels to Baghdad. "In one recent incident, the entire stock of an Iraqi metal fabrication plant disappeared but was intercepted on its way to Jordan."

Iraqi media recently broke its silence over the issue and reported the uncovering of what was described as a major organised gang of thieves and smugglers.



The Madaba Mosaic map. The preservation of this establishment of a school to teach students in this field.

School being established to help uncover and preserve Jordan's mosaics

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's mosaics, which have become famous internationally and the Kingdom's mosaic could hold hundreds of undiscovered sites of the magnificent works undertaken centuries ago.

But it needs expertise and painstaking work to uncover mosaics and a school is being set up near Amman to train "mosaic restorers".

The Italian government, which earlier supported mosaic restoration work in Jordan to the \$50,000, is now extending \$200,000 in equipment, materials and scholarships for students and teachers for the school, which is expected to open its doors in time for the next scholastic year.

The school will be situated at Madaba — Jordan's best known "City of Mosaics" and accept between 10 to 15 students who have completed years at regular schools. They will be offered a three-year course, the first two years which will be in line with the national schooling curriculum and the last year will be devoted to the field of mosaics. Still, they will be trained

at par with tawjihi students and recognised as such. During the final year of the course, the students will be trained in the intricate art of restoring mosaics by experts from Italy, a country which takes pride in itself as a pioneer in the field.

"Jordan's mosaics are beautiful and very well known in Europe," said Giovanni Benenati of the Cultural Department at the Italian Embassy in Amman. He noted that Jordanian mosaics have gone on exhibition in several European countries.

"There is a lot of potential here for further discovery and restoration of mosaic — in Mount Nebbo, Jerash, Umm Kais and other places," he said.

Mr. Benenati said the school will offer intensive training in all fields of mosaic restoration, including chemistry and chemical treatment for all forms of mosaics as well as mirrors. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving students for further specialised training in Italian institutions, he said.

The proposal to set up the Madaba School was the brainchild of Her Majesty Queen

Noor, who in 1987, during a visit to the town suggested the project.

Most of the restoration work of mosaics in Jordan have been undertaken by Italian experts, headed by professor Michele Piccirilli of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute of Jerusalem.

The Jordanian government has already acquired the buildings to house the school and the Canadian government contributed \$35,000 to refurbish and prepare the premises. Work is already underway at the site.

According to Mr. Benenati, graduates from the school could easily be absorbed into employment or self-employment.

"They can help restoration of mosaics — which is a delicate art requiring skills and expertise, or they can set up their own businesses or be used elsewhere in the construction sector which involves restoration," he said.

In general, he said, in view of the limited number of students expected to be trained at the school there is enough room in Jordan to absorb them.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroideries and hand-made items at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by artist Shaker Al Jural at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Katz and Mame" (cat and mouse) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL

Following the decision of the banking authorities* in Luxembourg, the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom to secure control of the assets of banks in the Bank of Credit and Commerce Group (BCCI), MasterCard International wishes to announce that it has terminated the appointment of (BCCI) as its representative member bank in Jordan.

MasterCard International is also pleased to announce the appointment of: British Bank of the Middle East as its representative member bank to conduct acceptance, authorization and payment services for all MasterCard sales vouchers in Jordan.

Accordingly, all MasterCard International accredited merchants previously dealing through (BCCI) in Jordan, and any other merchants who wish to join the global acceptance network of MasterCard International in Jordan should contact as soon as possible the

British Bank of the Middle East
P.O. Box 925286 Jebel Hussein Amman

Please contact Mr. Kamal Sadeq on telephone 692961 Who will be pleased to set up the necessary arrangements.

Jordan Times

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Judiciary on trial?

LAST WEEK'S graduation of the first batch of students from the Jordanian Judiciary Institute should be a reminder of the need to reflect more deeply into the malaise that the Jordanian judicial system continues to suffer from in spite of all the rhetoric about revitalising and modernising it. There is urgency to call for improving that system by injecting into its ranks dynamic elements and factors, especially in the wake of the phasing out of the state of emergency in the country and the introduction of a new defence law. Above all the new leaders of our judicial authorities must become more cognizant of the country's treaty obligations particularly under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is the backbone of the existing international code of conduct on human rights and judicial safeguards and guarantees. Moreover, it is high time (if not a couple of decades overdue) to introduce some technology into our judicial operations beginning with taking trial transcripts in court proceedings in a more efficient and sensible manner. Thirdly, it is about time that the country's courtrooms began to look like real courts instead of the dismal way they appear now. The country's existing judicial decorum is so absurd and degrading that it belies all protestations that the judiciary in the Kingdom is a matter of high priority. Of course one can always inject the easy argument and scapegoat that the economic situation in the country does not allow for the rectification of such serious and alarming omissions. Yet the stark reality is that successive governments never addressed such judicial requirements or cared about them even when the economic situation in the country did permit their resolution. The evidence accumulated over the past decades suggests that the leaderships of the judicial system in Jordan never demonstrated enough dynamism or ingenuity to tackle seriously such mundane issues related to the efficient operation of the courtroom proceedings. Besides there should not be too much extra cost to making Jordan's courtrooms a cleaner and more proper place for the adjudication of legal issues and disputes. Our judicial officials would be surprised to learn what a couple of brushes and few cans of paint would do to even the most miserable looking courtrooms in Amman or Tafleh. And since public hearings in the conduct of court proceedings is a constitutional right, the size of the majority of our existing courtroom is so small and inappropriate that they obviously interfere woefully with this constitutional right to public hearings. The trouble, as it has always been, is that too many words are said about the judiciary and very little is done about it. It behooves our new minister to take the bull by the horn this time and start doing something tangible to improve things. Even under the existing physical constraints, a great deal can still be done to alleviate the dismal state of affairs in the so-called Palace of Justice and elsewhere where our courts are dispersed.

There are other substantive problems that still haunt true development in this sphere. The overriding one is of course the matter of the supervisory role of the judiciary over the other branches of government. This, all jurists concede; cannot be achieved as long as the issue of the appointment of judges and their retirement remains essentially in the hands of the executive branch of government. How can anyone forget how a previous government, which was not content with the way the higher courts of the land were rendering judgements, resorted to retire a number of supreme court judges in order to make way to judges of their liking? The only effective way to resolve this perennial problem is to make the appointment and retirement of judges subject to the scrutiny of parliament as well. The moral of the judicial story is that there is a great deal of improvement to make, and the country is impatiently waiting for a real effort to be started in that direction.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL has just taken delivery of 16 warplanes, which Washington said were needed to ensure Israel's superiority, and the planes are being sent at a time when James Baker is said to be planning a fresh tour of the Middle East region, said Al Rai daily Friday. If Baker is coming to promote the peace process, the new war planes definitely do not contribute to this objective and can by no means help the cause of peace because they are bound to force Israel's hand and encourage its intransigence, said the paper. The peace process clearly does not require an encouragement of arms-building but rather confidence-building among the concerned parties, a process which Washington is disregarding, the paper continued. If the U.S. is really concerned with the establishment of a just and durable peace with ensuring Baker's success in his efforts, said the paper, the Israelis should not be encouraged to launch aggression with sophisticated weapons. Washington's jubilation over Gorbachev's success and the legitimacy with regard to world issues and stop Israel's aggressive attitudes with regard to the establishment of a durable peace, the paper added.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented Friday on a call by Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens on the Arab countries to adopt democracy and said that it is Israel which is undemocratic because it continues to occupy other countries by force depriving the Palestinians their human rights. The paper said that Mr. Arens considers the Jewish state a democratic nation in the Middle East ignoring the fact that it is a state that was founded on terrorism and repression against the Arab people ignoring the fact that it is pursuing all aggressive policies against the Arab countries. The paper noted that as Mr. Arens speaks about democratic rule his troops continue to seize Arab lands, imprison Arab citizens, and demolish Arab homes in Palestine.

Mythmaking: An exercise in Israeli propaganda

"For the past 43 years, the government of Israel and its embassies and supporters around the world have been colluding in a process best described as 'mythmaking' in order to realise their cherished dream of creating a Jewish state in the whole of historic Palestine. To this end, a variety of talents have been employed, from scholars and journalists to human rights campaigners and politicians."

According to an article recently published by the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), one such "mythmaker" is Harry V. Lerner, an attorney in Bethesda, Maryland, who wrote an article entitled "Read the law: Gaza is not Kuwait" published in the Wall Street Journal (Europe) of April 23, 1991.

According to the CAABU article, Lerner's piece "is currently being distributed by the Israeli embassy in London as part of its ongoing campaign to deprive the Palestinian people of their national rights and, indeed, of all the rights acknowledged as being legitimately theirs by the international community."

Following are the texts of both CAABU's and Lerner's articles:

Mr. Lerner's article sets out to prove that United Nations Resolution 242 can be interpreted in a way which not only fails to condemn Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Sinai in 1967, but even approves its possession of the West Bank and Gaza as "a matter of right." This is mythmaking of the highest order and cannot be

allowed to escape unremarked. To begin with, Mr. Lerner refers to the question of "linkage" between Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in August 1990 and Israel's occupation of large areas of Arab land in June 1967 — an issue which was raised in some quarters during the Gulf crisis. Although the ways in which the occupations occurred — one being an act of unprovoked

aggression and the other the outcome of a war — the end result nonetheless was the same: a state of belligerent occupation. In both cases, an external power occupied a territory which did not belong to it and, with the territory, a population which did not wish to be under its rule.

It is important to note that Israel's version of events in 1967 is not the only one. The crisis which led to the 1967 war did not begin with Egypt asking the United Nations to remove the U.N. peacekeeping force from its side of the Egyptian-Israeli armistice line, as Mr. Lerner implies, nor did it start with Syrian shelling of Israeli villages, to which he also makes reference.

In reality, Israel had been deliberately, and repeatedly, breaking the terms of the armistice agreements which it had signed with its Arab neighbours in 1949. On the border with Syria, Israel expelled those Palestinians still remaining within the demilitarised zones after 1949. Israeli settlers then began to encroach upon the land of these zones. This, clearly, was a violation of the Syrian-Israeli armistice

agreement, which had provided that the status quo within the demilitarised zones would not be altered. Syria's gunners opened fire on the Israeli settlers in response to their actions in breaching the armistice agreement.

The countdown to the 1967 war began in earnest when Israel sent an armoured tractor into a demilitarised area in April 1967, fully aware that the Syrian response would be. When the Syrians fired on the tractor, Israeli jet fighters bombed the Golan Heights and, in the process, shot down six Syrian aircraft. At this point, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli chief of staff, threatened to attack Damascus. The Syrian government, thoroughly alarmed, then appealed to Egypt for assistance, under the Mutual Defence Pact, which had been concluded between the two countries in November of the previous year.

Egypt responded by asking the U.N. to withdraw its peacekeeping forces and, after the withdrawal, by closing the Strait of Tiran to Israeli shipping, which would have affected 10 per cent of Israel's trade. Egypt, at the time, assured the United States that it did not intend to go to war against Israel, and the Egyptian government cooperated with diplomatic moves to de-escalate the crisis. Israel, however, launched a surprise attack during which it defeated Egypt, Syria and Jordan, and seized all of Palestine, the Sinai peninsula and the Golan Heights.

Against this background, Israel's claim to have waged a war of defence cannot be taken seriously. On the contrary, it can plausibly be argued that the Israeli leadership, or at least a part of it, sought to engineer the crisis in order to seize the Palestinian Arab territory it had not taken in 1948, and more besides.

As soon as one realises that, far from being forced to engage in a "defensive" war, Israel had in fact provoked the 1967 hostilities, the argument about the inappropriateness of linkage collapses. The parallels are, in reality, very close indeed.

In both cases, Iraq's and Israel's, the U.N. Security Council passed resolutions calling upon the occupier to withdraw forthwith. As Mr. Lerner notes, the language of Resolutions 242 and 660 is by no means the same but the desired outcome most certainly is. One could argue, too, that the language is inconsistent because of the influence of the United States, a veto-holding permanent member of the Security Council and a country seemingly incapable of criticising its ally Israel in anything other than the most roundabout terms.

More glaring, alas, has been the discrepancy of reactions. In response to Kuwait's plight after the invasion of August 1990, the U.N. Security Council acted with unprecedented haste by, first, imposing sweeping sanctions against Iraq and, then, authorising the use of force. The occupation of Kuwait was ended within seven months. In the case of the areas occupied by Israel in 1967, in contrast, despite numerous Security Council resolutions, the occupier has refused to budge and the international community, for a variety of reasons — most notably the U.S. veto in the Security Council, together with its economic coercive power — has chosen to apply only moral pressure.

At the same time, it should be stressed that the situation persists not because of any acceptance of Israeli rights. On the contrary, Israeli behaviour has been generally condemned and, over the past 24 years, there have been a great many demands for the ending of the occupation and for a peaceful settlement to the dispute. What is lacking, unfortunately, unlike the case of Iraq and Kuwait, is political will, including a willingness to apply pressures of an economic or, if necessary, a military nature.

Mr. Lerner devotes a considerable portion of his article to a radical reinterpretation of Resolution 242. In order to refute his assertions, it is necessary to examine the wording of the resolution, adopted on Nov. 22, 1967, very carefully. It begins by emphasising "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." This, obviously, refers to Israel's seizure of Arab lands during the 1967 war. There is no provision for the manner in which the territory was acquired. Israel's claim to have fought a defensive war, therefore, even if such a claim had any validity, is irrelevant in the context of the resolution.

Next, Resolution 242 affirms that "the fulfilment of the principle

(Continued on page 5)

Read the law: Gaza is not Kuwait

By Harry V. Lerner

American Secretary of State James Baker is attempting to bring peace to the Middle East along the lines laid down by President George Bush in his March 6 address to the U.S. Congress. "The time has come," the president said, "to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, an end that 'most be grounded, in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.' Peace between Arabs and Israelis is of course desirable; but some of President Bush's language suggests that he accepts President Saddam Hussein's view that the Israeli 'occupation' of the West Bank and Gaza is some-

how equivalent to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This parallelism is not only wrong as a matter of policy and morality — it is wrong as a matter of international law.

Under international law, an occupying power is a state that holds territory taken from its legitimate sovereign in an act of aggression. Occupation is by definition illegal, and an occupying power is obliged to withdraw. Iraq in Kuwait was an occupying power in the classic sense of the term. Israel in the West Bank and Gaza is not.

No condemnation

The Security Council adopted Resolution 242 after the 1967 Six Day War. It adopted Resolution 338 after the October 1973 war;

Resolution 338 called on the parties to the conflict to begin negotiations immediately under Resolution 242, which it affirmed. Resolution 242 does not "condemn" Israel or refer to an Israeli "invasion." It does not "demand" that Israel "withdraw immediately and unconditionally." It merely applies the term "occupying power" to Israel. All this language is present in Resolution 660, the resolution that called on Iraq to evacuate Kuwait.

The reason for these omissions is simple. The Security Council concluded in 1967 that Israel had not committed an armed attack or an invasion against its neighbours, but was in fact the victim of aggression by the Arab states. Until the Arab states comply with

the clause of Resolution 242 that expressed Israel's right to "live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force," Israel's status in the West Bank and Gaza was held to be that of a lawful administrator, holding territories taken in a defensive war.

In fact, Israel had been engaged in a defensive war for nearly 20 years at that point. Although the 1949 armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab states that had attacked it in 1948 prohibited hostile or war-like acts by other parties, Israel nevertheless had no peace. Terrorist bands trained, armed and directed by Arab states raided her territories from across

(Continued on page 5)

The week in print

Arab unity, independent approach emphasised

THE developments in the Soviet Union and the returning Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates to the Kingdom were the dominant topics tackled by the local press in the past week.

The developments in Moscow have proved that the Arabs can rely on no one but themselves and should understand that the elements of success in the coming peace process lie with them and with their strong will, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Rai daily.

The writer said that the Arabs should form an alliance to exercise pressure on their common enemy instead of relying on a foreign nation and should stop launching propaganda campaigns that can only harm their cause.

This view was backed by another columnist in Al Rai daily who said the Arabs could not trust but their intrinsic power irrespective of there being a balance of power in the world or not. Tariq Masarweh said that many Arabs were disappointed to see the coup fall in Moscow simply because they had hoped that the new regime would restore a balance of the world powers and rid the world of the continued hegemony of the U.S.-Zionist alliance.

Mr. Masarweh said that the Arabs and Third World countries were totally disappointed with Mr. Gorbachev who had stabbed them in the back, showed total submission to the United States and condoned the Western alliance's aggression on Iraq.

A columnist in Al Dustour justified the joy of the man in the street over the temporary disappearance of Mr. Gorbachev from the political scene by noting the fact that the Soviet leader had taken steps considered harmful to the Arabs and caused a socio-economic deterioration within the Soviet Union itself.

Mohammad Daoudieh said that reports coming out from the Soviet Union speak of hunger, corruption, crime and other social ills flourishing everywhere. The writer said that the Arabs had been hoping to see a halt to the Soviet-Jewish emigration to Palestine, that had been stepped up under Mr. Gorbachev who has left the arena to the United States to take any action and arrogantly despised the world international legitimacy.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, described the coup against Mr. Gorbachev as a courageous move to rid the Soviet Union of a leadership that harmed Soviet interests at home and abroad. The army generals took their action because they

saw their country falling totally in the hands of the Americans and their Western allies, the writer said. He said that it was hoped that the Soviet Union would end the embargo on Iraq and resume its role as a friend of the liberation movements around the world.

Turning to the Middle East issue, the columnist said the Arab countries had given their consent to attend a peace conference in advance of any guarantees by the U.S. administration to force Israel to withdraw from the Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war.

Salameh Ekour said that Israel should not be allowed to keep the land and get the aspired peace as well without any benefits to the Arabs. Since the Arabs believe that their strength lies in their unity, at least they can now embark on a move to coordinate the stands of these countries in direct confrontation with the Israeli enemy, the writer said.

The Middle East peace process is bound to be further delayed by the Israeli government's latest decision to put on trial the three Palestinian leaders who held talks with the PLO representatives in London, said Munes Al Razzaz in Al Dustour. The writer said that Shamir government was making a mockery of the international legitimacy, trying with all its might and in the face of all pressures, to delay any peace conference that would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people.

He said that Shamir and his government were trying at the same time to create a rift between the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza and their legitimate representatives.

Columnist Taber Al Udwan said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had succeeded in overcoming most of the obstacles impeding the convening of a peace conference but once the conference gets under way he was bound to confront the real problem of forcing Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the resolutions call for an Israeli pull out from Arab lands and tackle the refugee problem, which no one can elude. Neither Israel nor the United States can avoid serious handling of the essential issues that had plagued the Middle East for so long and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people if they are truly oriented to establish durable peace, the writer said.

This view is backed by Hamadeh Faraneh in Al Dustour, who said that the problem of the refugees could only be

solved by their returning to the land from which they had been uprooted. Hamadeh Faraneh said that Israel would be disillusioned if it believes that Jordan can substitute the Palestinians in the peace negotiations or can allow Arab rights to be ignored. He said that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 should be implemented in letter and spirit so that the Palestinians and all the Arabs can be satisfied.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily warned the Arabs against going to the peace conference in October without first reaching a joint stand regarding their national rights.

Mazen Al Saket said that what is urgently required at the moment is a Jordanian-Palestinian joint stand on which the other Arab countries can build their position.

The writer said no peace should be achieved in the Camp David style and no Arab party should deal separately with the Israeli enemy if the Arabs are determined to regain their rights.

Turning to the plight of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have returned to Jordan after a long absence in Kuwait, Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Rai daily, said that the government and people of Jordan are bound to help the expatriates settle and should offer them facilities to do so.

He called on the government to stop the increases in the rents and to introduce a legislation that would allow tenants to offer refuge to the expatriates without any complaints from landlords.

The writer said that schools, mosques and other places should raise contributions to the needy expatriates, that rich families should rally to offer funds and youth clubs should be placed at the disposal of the expatriates.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates, who spent their lifetime building Kuwait and helping that emirate prosper, have the right to demand a share of the prosperity and do not deserve to be driven out from the country.

Arafat Hijazi said that thanks to the expatriates Kuwait is now enjoying vast wealth; he said that thanks to the Jordanian army, which offered help to Kuwait against Abdul Karim Qasem, Kuwait has been saved.

Dwelling on the same topic, Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab said that the expulsion of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates was a form of pressure exercised on Jordan by an Arab country exactly like the United

States current siege imposed on Aqaba.

The writer said that by exercising pressure on Jordan, Kuwait is helping the United States maintain its own pressure on Amman which has been supporting the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and forcing Israel to deal directly with the Palestinian leadership.

This view was backed by Ahmad Al Dahbas in Sawt Al Shaab who said that the U.S.-led alliance was continuing the pressure on Jordan hoping that the Kingdom would change its national stand.

Jordan, he stressed, is the victim of a conspiracy concocted by the U.S.-led alliance and implemented by the Kuwaiti authorities. Such pressure, he said, was countered by His Majesty King Hussein's call on the Jordanian people to show solidarity with their expatriate brothers and to enhance the national unity which, the writer said, is the strongest toni in the face of the conspiracy.

A columnist in Al Dustour criticised the draft law on political parties describing it as falling short of meeting the aspirations of the majority of people.

Mazen Al Saket said that in its present form the draft law restricts the number of citizens wishing to be involved in political activity by defining the age of political party members and imposing penalties.

Such behaviour is tantamount to showing that involvement in political parties is a dangerous practice that should be avoided by the Jordanian citizens, the writer said.

Another columnist criticised the actions of certain private schools with regard to dealing with teaching staff members.

Salah Abdul Samad, who writes in Al Rai, said that certain private schools tend to impose very humiliating terms and conditions on their teachers and sometimes resort to mass dismissals in order to achieve their objectives. He said that teachers in such schools are forced to sign contracts that can by no means safeguard their own interests.

The teachers are sometimes forced to accept difficult conditions and terms because, the writer said, schools' administrations have the right to terminate a teacher's services at any moment in view of the fact that many people are currently unemployed and accept any salaries given them under the present circumstances.

LETTERS

Charity starts at home

To the Editor:

Monitoring events of the fateful "60 hours in the USSR" and world reaction to the unconstitutional attempt to destroy the obviously popular reform democratic movement left me dismayed with the unprincipled attitude of many of our press commentators, daily columnists, intellectuals, members of Parliament and other leaders of public opinion.

While they are on daily record calling for democratisation at home, human rights for Palestinians in Kuwait and occupied Palestine, and food for the children of Iraq, they turn a blind eye to the aspirations of the people of the Soviet Union for freedom and democracy and let their personal dislike of Mr. Gorbachev cloud their supposedly crystal clear analytical minds.

It seems to me that we practice double standards while we are famous in accusing others of committing them.

Dr. Ghazi Shubailat
 P.O. Box 5196
 Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name, and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Mythmaking: An exercise in Israeli propaganda

(Continued from page 4)

Council member states "at the time clearly underlines this truth. Finally, Resolution 242 affirms the necessity for guaranteeing the territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones." This, again, should be agreeable to Israel unless, as one fears, this particular state has other long-term plans.

Mr. Lerner, in his article, claims that the normal laws of occupation do not apply in the case of Israel and the Palestinian territories. This is false. Whatever the origins of an occupation, the rules for administering it remain the same. These are laid down in the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, to which Israel is a party.

Israel has argued that these regulations do not apply on the grounds, first, that the 1967 war was a defensive one which, as we have seen, is a much disputed version of events (and, in any case, irrelevant; the Geneva Conventions are binding upon all signatories and contain absolutely no provision permitting a signatory which deems itself to be acting in self-defence to disregard the regulations they set forth).

Second, Israel claims that the occupation is somehow different because the territories it occupied in 1967 (the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem) although certainly not the Golan Heights or Sinai) were not at the time "sovereign." This claim, whatever its validity — and the situation is by no means clearcut — is quite irrelevant. Any country administering territory occupied during the course of a war is obliged to observe international laws relating to belligerent occupation pending a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Lerner's bizarre attempt to differentiate between Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory and a country occupying, i.e. being located upon a coastal plain or a person occupying a chair is fatuous and, worse, demonstrates a serious lack of understanding of, or contempt for, international law as well as his readers' intelligence.

Equally obscure are his concluding remarks which strive to justify Israel's behaviour towards the Palestinians: "He attempts to draw a parallel between the position of the loyalists who fled from their homes during the American Revolutionary War, and lost everything, and the Palestinian refugees who, Mr. Lerner apparently believes, should lose everything. While it is certainly true that the loyalists who fled from the thirteen colonies were neither allowed to return to their lands, nor to receive compensation, one should bear in mind that these events took place over two hundred years ago. Humanity, since then, has aspired to raise its standards of conduct, through international conventions on human rights and the conduct of war and through bodies such as the United Nations."

Mr. Lerner states that the loyalists did not return or receive compensation "notwithstanding the Treaty of Paris." Since that treaty did not provide for the right to return nor to receive compensation, this is hardly surprising.

The U.N., on the other hand,

has repeatedly affirmed the right of the Palestinian refugees to return or to receive compensation, and most Palestinians would argue strongly that provision must be made for this in any peace settlement.

There now exists a considerable body of international law which defines and regulates global interactions, although no one would claim that this instrument has yet been perfected. Israel is a signatory to many of the treaties in question, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and it is, therefore, inexcusable for it to adopt such a bighanded attitude towards the territories it occupies and the Palestinians who inhabit these territories.

Finally, Mr. Lerner undermines any remaining vestiges of seriousness by his dismissive discussion of the "Arab refugees." Although, he states, "thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab lands have been resettled in Israel... Arab refugees from Palestine... have generally not been resettled." The Arab states, in his words, are "punishing their citizenship in their host countries." Such crude restructuring of reality must surely give one pause for thought.

The problem of Jewish refugees from the Arab World arose following the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem and as a tragic by-product of the turmoil resulting from the conflict in Palestine in 1948. Israel wanted those Jews to be "ingathered" and, indeed, was not above helping the process along in Iraq and Egypt. The Palestinians, on the whole, do not wish to settle in other Arab countries, although many of them have been forced to do so, because they

prefer to return to their own country, Palestine.

The article by Harry V. Lerner is, sadly, all too typical of the mythmaking employed by Israel and its apologists in their attempts to invert reality. These fictions are occasionally convincing but, more often, as in this article, they are quite lacking in respect for the facts or appreciation of international or moral laws. They tend to reflect the increasingly narrow-minded, annexationist, extreme Zionist views dominant in contemporary Israel.

What is lacking in accuracy, however, is more than made up for in repetition. It is as if, by the sheer monotonous parroting of such lies and distortions, Israel and its supporters hope to create an alternative model of reality and, in this, they have not been altogether unsuccessful. They have, after all, vast resources. Thus, the myth of "poor little Israel," the victim of terrorist Arab aggression, persists, despite persuasive proof to the contrary.

Articles such as Mr. Lerner's help bolster this myth and broaden it, thus generating boundless indulgence towards the distasteful and illegal actions of the Israeli government. Nonetheless, by looking closely at statements of this nature, as we have done with Mr. Lerner's article, one can usually expose without too much difficulty the distortions, inaccuracies and myths they contain. It is, moreover, vitally necessary to do this in order to prevent further negative shifts in the terms in which the Palestine conflict is discussed and, consequently, the terms in which the international community believes a peace settlement should be reached.

Bush sees improved prospects

(Continued from page 1)

Yedioth Ahronot Friday. However, Mr. Shamir said Arabs still had problems to resolve before peace talks and repeated the Israeli demand for restoration of full Soviet-Israeli relations before any peace conference.

"It is difficult for me to determine if the original timetable for the conference in October will be realised," Mr. Shamir said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens told reporters Thursday Israel "was happy" that Mr. Gorbachev had returned to his legitimate role in the Soviet Union, calling the day "a holiday for the Soviet Union" and "for all free and democratic people throughout the world."

Mr. Arens said he expected that after the Soviet government "sets their house in order" it would "follow its declared policy of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and participating in the Middle East peace process."

Mr. Arens said with Mr. Gorbachev back in power "there is no reason that the political process, which the Soviet Union is participating in, will be delayed."

Foreign Minister David Levy also praised the Soviet Union for proving "democratic values and those of freedom are very strong" and expressed optimism that Soviet-Israeli dialogue would be renewed.

Israel Television reported that the Soviet delegation in Israel had expressed disappointment in Prime Minister Shamir's failure to make any official statement in the first three days of the crisis.

But Israel Radio said the Soviet delegation denied the report, saying the opposite was true and that the Soviet Union appreciated Mr. Shamir's behaviour throughout the crisis and his statement welcoming the collapse of the Soviet coup.

The Soviet delegation and the foreign ministry could not be reached for comment.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, in an interview published Friday, criticised the Israeli government's exclusion of Jerusalem Palestinians from peace talks.

"I wouldn't oppose it... In this matter there is too much preoccupation with technicalities instead of substance and content. It's so unimportant," the daily Yedioth Ahronot quoted Mr. Kolek as saying.

Mr. Shamir opposes the inclusion of Jerusalem Palestinians in the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

"It's not worth creating crisis about this and destroying our credit in the world, especially with the U.S. administration," Mr. Kolek was quoted as saying.

"The unity of the city depends on the question of whether we can show the world that we (Jews and Arabs) can live together," he said.

Gaza is not Kuwait

(Continued from page 4)

the armistice lines. Syria shelled Israeli villages from the Golan Heights.

Then, in May 1967, Egypt asked the U.N. to remove its peacekeeping forces from the Egyptian-Israeli armistice line (which they had patrolled since 1957). The U.N. complied. Egypt poured troops into the Sinai, and imposed a blockade upon shipment to and from Israel. These were, under international law, acts of war. Israel response, the Six Day War, was understood by the Security Council to be a defensive action to a war begun by others.

The only possible basis for concluding that Israel is an occupying power in the conquered West Bank and Gaza is by leaning on the fact that Resolution 242, without characterising Israel as an occupying power, refers to those territories as being "occupied." But it's generally accepted that the term means something different when applied to the West Bank and Gaza than it did when applied to Kuwait. When an atlas says that a country occupied the coastal plain, or when you occupy a chair, the term does not have the same political meaning as it does in international law. The only proper meaning for

"occupied" as used in 242, consistent with the history and context in which it is used, is "possessed," or "taken into possession."

That's certainly the meaning America's then-Secretary of State William P. Rogers gave to the resolution. In a speech given on Dec. 9, 1969, he made clear the Nixon administration's view that Israel was not an aggressive, conquering or "occupying" power. He said:

"The boundaries from which the 1967 war began were established in the 1949 armistice agreements... those boundaries were armistice lines, not final political borders... the Security Council Resolution 242 neither endorses nor precludes these armistice lines as the definitive political boundaries."

Secretary Rogers' interpretation of Resolution 242 was the same as Israel's: the 1949 armistice lines are not Israel's political boundaries. Until her political boundaries are established and agreed upon by the parties in conformity to the second clause of Resolution 242, Israel is entitled to stay in the land taken in 1967.

The late Arthur J. Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. when Resolution 242 was adopted, corroborates Secretary

Rogers' understanding. In a letter of June 26, 1980, on whether 242 requires Israeli withdrawal from "all of the territories occupied in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 war," Ambassador Goldberg wrote:

"The notable omissions (from the resolution) are the words 'the' and 'all.' The significance of these omissions is vital to a proper understanding of Resolution 242."

"The resolution, in essence, neither commands nor prohibits total Israeli withdrawal. Rather, it remits the extent and timing of any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the parties to the conflict to negotiate."

Like Secretary Rogers, Ambassador Goldberg believed that "territory for peace" is not a principle under 242, as stated by President Bush. It is an option available to Israel.

Nor is this just the opinion of U.S. officials. The Egyptian government adopted this view, when it agreed to the Camp David accords on Sept. 21, 1978. They are based on Resolution 242. Significantly, the accords do not use the terms "occupying," "occupied territory," or "occupied" nor do they contain any of the criteria of an occupying power. The parties agreed in the accords to the election of a self-governing authority for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza (but not Jerusalem). Rules

for the election would be set by Israel, Egypt and Jordan plus "Palestinians (the Hebrew text says 'Palestinian Arabs')."

The terms of the Camp David accords are fundamentally inconsistent with the concept of Israel being the occupying power. They are wholly consistent with Israel's status as the administrative authority in lawful possession of the territories. And in the accords, the U.S. agreed that under 242, Israel is in possession of the West Bank and Gaza as a matter of right, not as an occupying power.

Mr. Baker's policy, and Mr. Bush's March 6 speech, have called for a recognition of "legitimate Palestinian political rights." This may or may not be sound policy, but it is certainly a departure from Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords.

Resolution 242 states that the Security Council "affirms the necessity... for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem." That language refers to Jewish refugees as well as Arabs. By now, the thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab lands have been resettled in Israel. Arab refugees from Palestine, however, have generally not been resettled. Arab states admit Arab refugees and employ many of them, but do not grant them citizenship. Kuwait used to contain more than 400,000 such refugees, many of whom had lived and worked there for a genera-

tion, but who were not permitted to acquire Kuwaiti citizenship.

Arab brethren

The time has come for the Arab states to admit that they lost the war in 1948 and in 1967, and to stop punishing their Arab brethren by denying them citizenship in their host countries. In the Revolutionary War, loyalists to the British crown fled the 13 colonies and lost their homes and livelihood. Notwithstanding the Treaty of Paris, which ended the war with Britain, they did not return and did not receive compensation for their losses.

According to the original understanding of Resolution 242, Israel has no obligation to withdraw from any of the territories taken in 1967 unless a peace treaty with an Arab state creates a secure and recognised boundary that calls for withdrawal thereto, as the treaty with Egypt did. And Israel remains at liberty to negotiate peace treaties that do not call for withdrawal. According to the Arab states, and — it seems — according to President Bush, Israel is an occupying power in the West Bank and Gaza, and is obliged to withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines. The view shared by the president and by the Arab states may or may not be advantageous to U.S. foreign policy interests. It is certainly bad history, and had international law.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin start Soviet clean-up

(Continued from page 1)

ers. The order does not apply to Russia's autonomous republics, which apparently are allowed to make their own decisions on the subject.

— Mr. Yeltsin also nationalised the Novosti news agency. He ordered the heads of the TASS and Novosti news agencies fired for misinforming the public during the coup attempt. However, the two organisations are not subordinate to Mr. Yeltsin.

— TASS banned its party organisation, in compliance with Mr. Yeltsin's earlier decree barring any political activity inside workplaces.

— In Georgia, anti-communist protesters picketed the party's headquarters in Tbilisi. The round table coalition led by Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia called for prohibition of the party and nationalisation of its property.

— Moldavian president Mircea Snegur ordered the removal of party organisations from government agencies, TASS reported.

— In Lithuania, police occupied the party headquarters. Lithuanian party leaders fled the building in four armoured vehicles and took refuge in an army base, the state news agency said.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis demanded that the commander of the Vilnius military garrison turn over the party leaders so they can be arrested for supporting the failed coup.

Mr. Yeltsin told the Russian parliament that he already had signed a decree turning over Communist Party property to the Russian people. Mr. Gorbachev then confirmed that all decrees signed by Mr. Yeltsin during the coup had the power of law.

"The decree is hereby signed," said Mr. Gorbachev, referring to his order legalising Mr. Yeltsin's actions during the coup.

The deputies applauded. In another clear sign of his new power, Mr. Yeltsin interrupted Mr. Gorbachev from his seat

across the podium at the Russian Parliament, dubbed the White House.

He insisted Mr. Gorbachev read out a report on a cabinet meeting Monday, when the coup had apparently succeeded, to show their guilt.

"I have not read it yet," Mr. Gorbachev protested.

"Well read it now," insisted Mr. Yeltsin, before the parliament and tens of millions of television viewers.

Mr. Yeltsin was loudly applauded when Mr. Gorbachev thanked him for his part in thwarting the coup but the reception for the Soviet leader was far less favourable. Hostile deputies heckled him and others sat stony-faced as he spoke.

Mr. Yeltsin appeared Friday to be acting at least as an equal with Mr. Gorbachev, and the two clearly agreed on replacing old-guard officials with reformers.

Mr. Gorbachev later said the two leaders had reached an agreement that permits each man to assume the other's duties in an emergency, such as another coup attempt.

24 hours that shook Soviet Union

(Continued from page 1)

had seized in a campaign of intimidation. Around dusk, they pulled out of the Lithuanian broadcasting centre in Vilnius, site of a bloody assault in January that left 14 people dead.

The military and security organs — the Defence Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the KGB — were the biggest losers.

By Thursday morning, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov were under arrest, and police were headed to the home of Interior Minister Pugo. But Mr. Pugo shot himself instead.

Mr. Gorbachev's six years of reform have eased Soviets' fears of the security services. But the role their leaders played in organising the coup deeply discredited them, and the last vestiges of fear among Muscovites appeared to melt away.

The removal of the Dzerzhinsky statue symbolised that.

"All of our lives the KGB was stronger than the people," said Irina Kalina. The secret police shot her father in 1938 and sent her into exile in 1949-1953.

Watching the Dzerzhinsky statue come down, she said: "This is the first time in 70 years that the people are stronger."

G-7 to discuss Soviet events

(Continued from page 1)

world's most prosperous countries to promise Mr. Gorbachev enough money played a part in undermining him.

Mr. Kinnock warned the Soviet Union would become more unstable if the West failed to provide more support.

But Mr. Major denied that the G-7's rejection of Mr. Gorbachev's request for \$7.3 billion had helped precipitate the coup.

U.S. President George Bush also has opposed large-scale handouts to the Soviets until they make tangible progress towards a market economy.

"Unless the system is changed, our money would be like a drop of water on a hot stove," said Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek of the Netherlands, current president of the European Community.

Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the French National Assembly's foreign affairs committee, who just returned from trip to Moscow as an envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, said that watching Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin was like watching "two different planets who were going to join and work together, and that won't be easy."

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Morceli tells Aouita his time is up

TOKYO (Agencies) — Brash young Algerian Noureddine Morceli has news for Said Aouita: "You've had your day, now it's my turn."

"It's my year," the 21-year-old said confidently Friday, the eve of the World Athletics Championships where he expects to take on the Moroccan in the 1,500 metres final on Sept. 1.

Aouita, world record holder in both the 1,500 and 5,000 metres, may have been the middle-distance king of the 1980's but, according to Morceli, his time is over.

The Algerian has already claimed the world indoor 1,500 metres record and title this year and has also moved dangerously close to Aouita's world outdoor record of three minutes 29.46 seconds, clocking 3:31.00 twice.

As the soft-spoken Morceli tells it, there is no one at the World Championships who can touch him.

"I have a strong kick and if the race is fast or slow, I can win," he said, disregarding the strategies of his opponents. "I have the confidence in the 1,500, especially, after last year when I ran 3:32."

Morceli originally entered three events at the world championships, being named in the 800 and 5,000 metres as well, but he made it clear his priority is the 1,500 metres.

When he reaches 27 or 28 he may want to chase Aouita's world record in the 5,000 metres but, for the moment, Morceli said the record he wants most is in the shorter distance.

Aouita, recovering from surgery on his calves last year, chased Morceli at Monaco earlier this month but could not defeat the graceful Algerian who has been the world's fastest over 1,500 metres for the past two years.

Morceli clocked 3:32.04 and Aouita 3:33.28.

The outcome may well be the same in Tokyo.

Meanwhile the third World Athletics Championships begin Saturday tinged with political overtones.

The Soviet team, having left home in the midst of an aborted coup, is here.

The South African team, eventually hoping to regain a place on the international sports stage, is missing.

The South Africans are about the only country absent in these championships, which have attracted 1,705 athletes from a record 168 countries, more na-

tions than competed in the 1988 Olympics.

The major addition from the Seoul games is Cuba which recently completed an emotional domination of the Pan American Games at Havana.

With nine of the sport's stronger teams, the Cubans are here en masse, led by Javier Sotomayor, the world record-holder in the men's high jump, and Ana Quirot, the javelinite in the women's 800 metres.

Sergei Bubka, the only 20-foot pole vaulter in history — he has cleared that magic barrier both indoors and outdoors this year — heads the psychologically scarred, 100-member Soviet delegation.

Bubka and three others arrived in Tokyo only two days after the attempted overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev. The remainder of the team came a day later when the coup was unraveling.

"I had no trouble getting out of Moscow," Bubka said. "But I saw some 70 tanks moving through the city and I was shocked. I started thinking of my family. I was concerned for their safety and I wondered why I was leaving them to come to Tokyo. It was sad, and tense."

Meanwhile, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) organisers of the championships, had hoped to secure the South Africans for their first international meet in 16 years.

Earlier this year, the IAAF, the world governing body for the sport which had suspended South Africa in 1979 because of the country's apartheid policies, issued temporary membership to that nation.

But this week, following strong opposition from South African athletics authorities who claimed that the country had not yet overcome its stand against racial separation, the IAAF voted to drop the nation's membership.

Thus, the frustrated South African athletes, some of whom are world-class, including Zola Pieterse — nee Budd — probably will have to wait until the 1992 Olympics before returning to the international scene.

Meanwhile, the championships — a major showcase for the world's other top athletes — will go on through Sept. 1 in 60,000-seat national stadium, the site of the 1964 Olympics. There will be 43 finals, 24 for men, 19 for women.

Three of the finals will be held Saturday — the men's 20-kilometre walk and the women's 10-kilometre walk and shot put.

Senna takes provisional pole in Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAPS, Belgium (AP) — World Champion Ayrton Senna lowered the Belgian Grand Prix qualifying record time by more than a second Friday, earning the provisional pole for Sunday's Formula One race.

Senna completed his best lap on the 6.940-kilometre circuit cut through the wooded, hilly Ardennes in nine minutes, 49.100 seconds, 0.385 seconds ahead of McLaren-Honda teammate Gerhard Berger and 1.265 seconds faster than the record he set last year.

Briton Nigel Mansell, second behind Senna in the season point

standings, took the third spot on the grid in the first of two qualifying sessions, completing his best lap in his Williams-Renault in 1:50.365.

Behind Mansell were the Ferraris of Alain Prost and Jean Alesi, who shared the third row on the provision grid with Mansell's teammate, Riccardo Patrese.

Senna won the pole two weeks ago in the Hungarian Grand Prix and led from start to finish to increase his lead in the season standings. The victory gave him 61 points, 12 ahead of Mansell and 29 ahead of Patrese.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSH
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ALWAYS PLAN THE CAMPAIGN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 10 9
♥ A 4
♦ A K J 6 3
♣ 8

EAST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ J 10 8 3 2
♦ J 8 5 4 3
♣ K 10

WEST
♠ 6
♥ J 10 8 3 2
♦ J 8 5 4 3
♣ K 10

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 5 2
♥ K Q 8
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ 5

The bidding: South 1♠, North 1NT, South 2♠, North 3NT, South 4NT, North 5NT, South 6NT, North 7NT.

Opening lead: Jack of Spades.

Before playing to the first trick, plan your campaign. Then check to make sure there isn't a better line available.

With such a powerful hand and magnificent trump support, North decided that South's opening bid had to consist of at least an ace and two kings. If South held the ace-king of trumps, North was prepared to gamble on a grand slam which, at worst, would be a finesse and, at best, would be a laydown. The jump to five no trump was the Grand Slam Force, requesting partner to bid the grand slam with two of the three top

honors. South dutifully obeyed. If trumps were 3-2, declarer realized he could claim the grand slam on a crossruff. So declarer won the opening lead in dummy and tried two rounds of trumps. When West discarded a heart on the second round, declarer went after clubs, cashing the ace and ruffing a club.

Since West held singletons in both black suits, chances of East holding three hearts were slight, so declarer drew the last trump, returned to hand with a heart and tried the diamond finesse. Down one.

Declarer's plan was pretty good, but there was a better one available. The tipoff was the high trumps in dummy which, as our readers know, suggests a dummy reversal. Declarer should win the opening lead in dummy, cash the ace of clubs and ruff a club high. After crossing to the ace of diamonds to ruff another club high, declarer can re-enter the table with a trump to ruff a third club with another high trump. Declarer still has a trump which serves as access to the board. After drawing the outstanding trumps and cashing the king of clubs, the queen of diamonds is discarded on a high heart. In all, declarer will score four trump tricks, three ruffs, three hearts, two clubs and a diamond.

Jordanian men win, women lose in handball games against Iraqis

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian men's national handball team beat its Iraqi counterpart 25-20 in an exciting game played Thursday at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman.

Earlier Thursday, the Jordanian women's national handball team suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the visiting Iraqi national team in the first of a series of matches scheduled in Jordan.

The game ended with the Iraqis winning 20-9.

The Iraqi men's and women's national handball teams arrived in Amman Tuesday upon the invitation of the Jordanian Handball Federation (JHF) to play a series of matches against their Jordanian counterparts.

The Jordanian men's team had a surprise in store for their

guests as Moaffaq Fathalla, Maher Malhas and their teammates played a fast and attacking game to win the first half 12-8.

Jordanian goalkeeper Nael Ghazi stood up to continued attacks from Sahib Kamal and Balaegh Mithkal, as the Jordanian team won the match.

Although the Jordanian women's team scored the first goal of the match in the fifth minute, the Iraqis attacked repeatedly thanks to their teamwork and better fitness.

The Jordanian women's team lost many scoring chances including three penalties in the first half which ended 9-3 in favour of the Iraqi team.

In the second half the Jordanian team tried to catch up with the Iraqi team and goalkeeper Jamileh Jaldala tried her best to prevent more Iraqi goals, especially with the repe-

ated attacks of Iraq's Sanaa Ahmad who scored ten goals for her team.

Jordanian women's national team coach Mohammad Khalifeh told the Jordan Times: "Such games with other national teams help us evaluate our progress and further improve our game."

Our national teams played against their Syrian counterparts in Syria and in Amman in the past two weeks. Even though Jordan lost these matches, "our performance improved from one game to the other," Khalifeh said. "With such continued competition and a lot more preparation and practice we hope to do much better."

The Iraqi national teams will play in Irbid at Al Hassan Sports City, Saturday. The final matches will be held in Amman, Monday at Al Hussein Youth City.

Edberg, Connors advance in New York

COMMACK, New York (AP) — Defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, ranked No. 2 in world tennis, whipped countryman Peter Lundgren 6-3, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the OTB International Tennis Tournament.

The top-seeded Edberg, who hasn't lost a set to Lundgren in six meetings, quickly won the first two games and held off Lundgren the rest of the way.

Lundgren, ranked 98th, had two break points in the 16-point opening game of the second set but couldn't convert, and Edberg went ahead 3-0.

The victory set up a quarterfinal match Friday between Edberg and Jimmy Connors, the ageless American who fought his way into the round of eight during the day.

Connors produced a rallying victory over Nicklas Kulti, a towering Swede, 1-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Seemingly tired and out of the match during the first set when his forehead and serve backfired, Connors slowly worked to draw even, helped by a service break in the third game of the second set.

Connors held service with an ace clocked at 108 mph in the sixth game, overcoming two double faults. And he produced two slower aces to hold serve in the 10th.

Playing under a strong sun, Connors then played an efficient serve-and-volley game to win the first 11 points of the third set on the way to taking the set at love. He lost only two points in three service games.

"I wasn't playing badly in the first set," said Connors, currently ranked 109th.

Stich storms to victory at OTB International

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — Wimbledon champion Michael Stich overwhelmed Tomas Carbonell of Spain 6-1, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals of the OTB International Tennis Tournament.

The hard-serving German recorded eight aces and 10 service winners as he needed just 48 minutes to beat Carbonell.

"I feel I played much better today than yesterday," said Stich, who survived a tense, first-set tiebreaker Wednesday before defeating Australian Mark Woodforde.

"Obviously, I'm trying to peak for the U.S. Open. This is just one step."

Carbonell said Stich is still on a high coming off his Wimbledon triumph.

"He is a cut above the rest of us right now," Carbonell said. "He has so much more confidence."

Stich will face seventh-seeded Australian Todd Woodbridge in Friday's quarterfinals.

Woodbridge outlasted 1990 French Open champion Andre Gomez of Ecuador 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 in the best match of the day.

Gomez appeared to have broken Woodbridge in the 11th game of the third set for 6-5 but had a ball overruled by chair umpire Dana Locanto that appeared to have hit the line.

"I don't want to take anything away from Woodbridge, but I thought I was robbed," said Gomez, who threw his racket in disgust after the call. "There had been mistakes being made all day on line calls and he chose to overrule the only one on break point."

In women's play, number two seed Julie Halard of France was upset by Nicole Provis of Australia 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Top seed Anke Huber of Germany advanced in straight sets over American teenager Lindsay Davenport 6-1, 7-5.

Vicario joins Maleeva and Meskhi in Washington semis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union and Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria advanced to the semifinals of the Virginia Slims of Washington with straight set victories.

Second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain joined them in the semifinals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 5 Zina Garrison. Sanchez Vicario will face Meskhi in Friday afternoon, while Maleeva meets third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez in the evening.

"I was playing very well, moving the ball very good," Sanchez Vicario said. "I knew every shot I was going to hit."

"I had control. The match was in my hands at all times," she said.

The weather replaced politics as the prize topic of conversation, as on-court temperatures soared past 100 degrees (34 C). But the heat wasn't really a factor for the winners.

Maleeva, the sixth seed, defeated Judith Wiesner of Austria, 6-4, 6-2. No. 7 Meskhi nudged fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

"I felt a little dizzy sometimes, because I had a very long day yesterday," said Maleeva, who had a Wednesday night doubles match, then hung around to watch her sister Magdalena lose to Garrison in a match that didn't end until after 11 p.m. (3 a.m. GMT Friday).

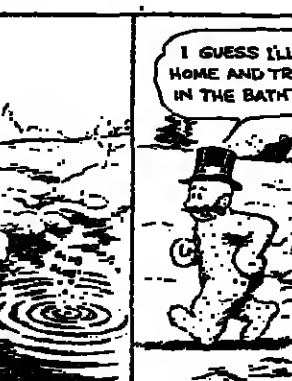
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Extend your present influence beyond your present bounds as you are able to meet important persons who are both conventional and conservative as well as some very productive folks who are way out.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to find the good means by which to gain the good will of those experts who look at everything from a very objective stance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think out a course of action that can bring you closer to an understanding with those allies whom you regard either as partners or opponents.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have lots of assignments to do and even though you feel going off to some new condition helps things, you are best advised to follow through with what you've started.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you have a good chance to get in touch with a usual ally who wants conditions to be better and who will assist you in any decision.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your money matters seem to be in an odd condition and require that you do handle them with more care and caution if you are to have the success you want.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a day when you are apt to be entirely too personal and to

feel you are being put on where it means the most to you but don't feel abused.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can find little reason now for yielding to that desire to get out from under what you have agreed to do so give your loans for more character in finishing your project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are the one who sees clearly how to get along better with some friends who have acted in a peculiar manner in the past so keep alert.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your interest in better understanding whatever your vocation is can be enhanced by listening to what one of worldly savvy has to recommend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have so many new ideas you hardly know which to accept and use but if you study them during the day and consult a close friend you will get the answer.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you wish to do that requires delving into the ways and wherefore of expenses and income is excellent for truth is available to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make yourself listen to the advice given you by partners who have very personal axes to grind and you get a clue into what they are really trying to secretly do.

Birthday present! Birth Stone

World Resources, Dagan & Co. Inc., Jewellers, Gems, Amman, Rio De Janeiro, Amman, Amra Hotel, 8th circle

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RECS
KLAN
GANBIK
BROMEY



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

Saturday's Jumbles: GUILD MESSY DUPLEX GOBLIN
Answer: What the bonds of marriage sometimes are— "GUILT-EDGED"

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole



ACROSS
1 After-dinner item
5 Spouse
9 Home
13 Suite
14 Mild oath
15 Future star
16 Examine closely
17 Sea eagle
18 Medieval helmet
19 Part of a "preparation" verse
22 Method
23 Walk heavily, as through mud
24 Gun or motor
26 Thought
31 Hindu religious teacher
35 Bones
36 Fit for the task
39 Kiddle's story
42 College official
43 exclamation
44 Hindu sacred writings
45 Rarely
47 Honey maker
49 Abhorrent
52 Rules, workers group
57 Nine
62 Lute of India
63 Leave out
64 Alp, port
65 Wide awake
66 Stout words
67 Debt entry
68 Diana of song
69 Br. gun
70 Art deco painter

DOWN
1 Schooner
2 Reestates
3 Approaches
4 Principle
5 "In St. Louis"
6 Field; prel.
7 Sharp tastes
8 Fox's folly
9 Knowledge handed down
10 Mme. Bovary
11 Desideratum
12 On-on
13 Ship's lead
20 Eldritch
21 Of music
25 Empty
27 Record
28 Footnote abbr.
29 Ruse, aim
30 Lach
31 Norms; abbr.
32 Glee! exclamation
33 Ruse, inland sea
34 Patch up
36 Sault — Marie
37 Thrust
40 Boundary
41 Turn inside out
46 Not concealed
48 Singer Shreya
50 Social celebrities
51 Art old style
52 Clock pin
54 Faux pas
55 At — (anyway)
56 Logic
57 Tyrant
58 Hwy.
59 Corn units
60 Ireland

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	10:10 CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.6890	1.6786
Deutsche Mark	1.7408	1.7508
Swiss Franc	1.5140	1.5215
French Franc	5.9155	5.9445
Japanese Yen	136.50	136.78
European Currency Unit	1.1806	1.1735

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.56	5.68	5.93
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.68	10.43	10.20
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.25	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.87	7.87	7.81
French Franc	4.16	4.25	4.50	4.50
Japanese Yen	7.34	7.21	6.93	6.68
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.90	9.94

Forward Rates

Currency	USD/Gr	JD/Gr	Metal	USD/Gr	JD/Gr
Gold	557.25	6.90	Silver	5.96	0.04

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.690	0.692
Sterling Pound	1.1624	1.1682
Deutsche Mark	0.3960	0.3980
Swiss Franc	0.4535	0.4566
French Franc	0.1165	0.1171
Japanese Yen	0.0036	0.0071
Dutch Guilder	0.3514	0.3512
Swedish Krona	0.1090	0.1090
Italian Lira	0.0529	0.0532
Belgian Franc	0.01912	0.01922

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7900
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1835	0.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1865	0.1880
Qatari Riyal	0.2100	0.2300
Egyptian Pound	1.7450	1.7900
Omani Riyal	0.1865	0.1880
UAE Dirham	0.3400	0.3500
Greek Drachma	0.4200	0.4500
Cypriot Pound	0.4200	0.4500

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	20/8/91	Close	21/8/91	Close
All-Share	107.56		107.17	
Banking Sector	100.78		100.32	
Insurance Sector	117.99		117.85	
Industry Sector	114.68		114.32	
Services Sector	126.66		126.78	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6845/55	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1435/40	Canadian dollar	
	1.7370/80	Deutsche marks	
	1.9565/75	Dutch guilders	
	1.5198/5208	Swiss francs	
	35.74/78	Belgian francs	
	5.9000/50	French francs	
	1297/1298	Italian lire	
	136.65/75	Japanese yen	
	6.3060/10	Swedish crowns	
	6.7870/20	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7050/7100	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	353.10/353.60	U.S. dollars	

Experts say Gorbachev has opportunity to accelerate reform, attract Western aid

LONDON (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev has an opportunity to move rapidly to accelerate economic reform and attract Western aid, but his government needs to agree on an economic plan and remain committed to it, experts said Thursday.

The view from the West is that quick, definite steps are required: introducing free prices, privatising state-owned industries and making the rouble convertible into foreign currencies.

"They've had dozens of plans in the past. The problem is that nobody has taken the plans seriously. They've been squabbling about it and they've fallen out," said Michael Hall, executive director of the British Soviet Chamber of Commerce.

"They have to look at the alternatives, agree on a plan for rapid movement and stick to it," he pointed out.

The hardliners' failure to oust Mr. Gorbachev effectively got rid of the obstacles to sweeping reform, and the crowds were on the side of perestroika, they said.

Keith Skeoch, chief economist with the London investment firm James Capel and Co., said: "You now have a pretty good chance that people will take the pain of reform. They recognise they have to go through this to get to the other side."

A gradual approach prolongs the pain and dilutes the improvements, Mr. Skeoch said.

A "big bang" approach, as adopted by Poland and East Germany, however, is fraught with the danger of high unemployment and civil unrest and a return to a centrally planned economy, Mr. Skeoch said.

"Because of the poor state of the economic infrastructure and the

inefficiencies within the system, you initially get a recession. It gets a lot worse before it gets better," Skeoch said.

The Soviet Union is a rich country with massive natural resources and a potentially lucrative market of 280 million people. But its economic output is falling. Inflation is rising. Food can't get from the fields to the store shelves.

David Price, a London-based Soviet expert with the accounting firm Ernst and Young, advocated that the Soviet Union adopt a 500-day plan worked out by Grigory Yavlinsky, a young Soviet economist.

This so-called "grand bargain," which Mr. Yavlinsky developed a year ago and revised this year with Harvard University experts, hasn't been endorsed by Mr. Gorbachev.

The plan would link Western aid to Soviet reform, a notion which some Western nations reject.

Boris Fyodorov, a former finance minister of the Russian Federation who now works for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, supports a link between aid and "concrete economic reform."

"The economic system doesn't exist which can process these billions of dollars," Mr. Fyodorov said.

Mr. Yavlinsky's plan calls for a phased transformation: It would stabilise the economy with a tight grip on monetary and fiscal policy, privatise industries and make the rouble convertible.

What is crucial is reducing the Soviet Union's massive military spending and redirecting resources to the consumer economy, said Paul Whitman, president of the British computer company ICL International, which operates in the Soviet Union.

To help make the rouble convertible, the Soviet Union must begin producing goods that the West will want to buy, Mr. Price said.

He also said the Soviet republics should act to encourage a quick transition, along the lines of two laws passed by the Russian Federation last month.

One is a foreign investment law which allows investors to own up to 100 per cent of a venture. The other is a privatisation law which sets out which state enterprises will be sold and allows participation by Western investors, Mr. Price said.

Mr. Whitman suggested that the Soviet Union also could foster development by introducing import barriers, thus encouraging Western companies to manufacture within the country.

The Soviet Union should be helped to upgrade its technology for extracting its oil and other natural resources, to improve its distribution network, and to modernise manufacturing machinery, Mr. Price said.

Aid also should be directed to Western investors who are having trouble lining up bank finance, Mr. Price said.

In another comment a senior U.N. economist said Thursday the coup against Mr. Gorbachev had been bound to fail but added that the reinstated president remained confronted with a formidable array of economic problems.

The Soviet Union's economic crisis is likely to deepen for at least another year or two amid growing hardship for the population, Aleksandar Vacic, chief analyst at the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said in an interview. The ECE monitors developments in Eastern and Western economies.

Mr. Vacic said the collapse of the coup freed Mr. Gorbachev of the need to compromise with orthodox elements in the Soviet hierarchy and made it easier for him to push through reforms.

Bankers in Egypt seem divided over new banking moves

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's bankers are undecided over government plans to give the central bank tougher watchdog powers and moves to bail out the Cairo affiliate of the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Some say a government decision to advise banks to help bail out the Bank of Credit and Commerce Misr (BCCM) may push foreign banks to withdraw from Egypt rather than boost capital in joint ventures to new higher levels demanded by the central bank.

Others, their eyes on private Egyptian holdings of \$50 billion stashed in overseas accounts, say local investor confidence is more important.

If the government is determined not to let other banks allow BCCM to fail, it also plans much tighter vetting of Egypt's often unruly financial sector to prevent a repeat of the disaster, they say.

"There will be a lot of mergers and acquisitions," Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, chairman of the state-owned National Bank of Egypt (NBE) told Reuters. "It's what's happening all over the world in banking."

Under a draft law which goes before parliament next month, the central bank will be able to liquidate or merge any bank it decides has chronic liquidity problems. Banks will have to meet a capital to assets ratio for the first time in Egypt.

"The new law will give a strong basis for authority by administration and not regulations and ends overlap between the central bank and the ministry of economy," Mr. Abdul Aziz added.

Private bankers criticised the law, saying foreign banks would be reluctant to lay down more capital if they thought it would go to bailing out other banks such as BCCM.

"There's a foreign side to this," the chief dealer at a private bank said. "Maybe the Egyptian banks have to accept the decision, but what about the foreign banks?"

Foreign banks, including First National Bank of Chicago, Mitsui Bank and American Express Bank, have moved into Egypt since the 1970s when former President Anwar Sadat's open door policy allowed the formation of joint ventures.

Private bankers say foreign banks, although attracted by freeing of interest and exchange rates as part of economic reforms Egypt agreed with the International Monetary Fund, were scrutinising the way the authorities handled the BCCM case.

The government called top banking executives in for talks and later said it would not allow any bank to fail after BCCM, which had up to 65 per cent of its estimated \$620 million holdings in its parent BCCI, faced a run on its deposits.

Shortly afterwards, financial sources said Egyptian banks had placed 0.25 per cent of their deposits, worth about \$60 million, interest-free in BCCM and had agreed to put as much again in soon.

Mr. Abdul Aziz said the government had created "a general understanding" among the banking community: "Investor confidence will grow," he said.

Under the new law, the central bank will act as general shareholders to the four state-run banks — NBE, Banque Misr, Bank of Alexandria, and Banque du Caire — which account for more than half of Egypt's banking activity.

As well as BCCM, several Islamic investment houses have either crashed or face liquidity problems in Egypt.

The country's private banking sector boomed in the 1970s and 1980s on money earned by expatriates in the Gulf but was often unregulated as untrained management handled billions of dollars belonging to depositors unused to the idea of banks.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Aug. 17-21	Aug. 10-14
Daily average	JD 643,308	JD 622,878
Total volume	JD 3,216,539	JD 2,491,510
Total shares	1,865,678	1,486,610
No. Of contracts	2,694	2,071

Sectoral trading:

	Aug. 17-21	Aug. 10-14
Industrial	JD 2,831,933 (83.2%)	JD 1,385,241 (55.4%)
Financial	JD 383,919 (11.7%)	JD 646,632 (25.7%)
Service	(17.5%)	(17.3%)
Insurance	(3.6%)	(1.4%)
Share price index	131.5	132.7
No. of companies	71	66
Price movement (rise)	10	30
(Decline)	50	27
(Stable)	11	9

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Profit-taking set in when the Soviet turnaround failed to bring the market back to pre-coup levels. Investors returned to the sidelines. The Nikkei average fell 450.43 points to 22,065.34.

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries Index, tracking Tokyo, lost 11.2 points to 1,540.6.

FRANKFURT — The market settled back to a quiet session after a rollercoaster week. Early losses on profit-taking were quickly reversed. The Dax index ended down 3.59 at 1,627.24.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer after Wall Street's early 40-point rise and firmer dollar. The SPI index ended up 6.2 at the day's high of 1,111.8.

PARIS — Signs of a stronger than expected recovery in the U.S. economy and hopes for a cut in French interest rates pushed the market to a nine-week closing high. The CAC-40 index ended up 14.32 at 1,833.45.

LONDON — Shares set a new closing high after a week in which the Soviet coup attempt sent prices spinning. Positive sentiment was boosted by evidence of economic recovery in the U.K. and USA. The FTSE index ended up 17.7 at 2,640.7.

NEW YORK — Blue chips traded at fresh session highs in hectic midday activity as investors flocked to big industrial stocks in hopes the U.S. economy was rebounding. The Dow was up 44 at 3,052.

Bush resumes aid to USSR and urges far-reaching reforms

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush has lifted a freeze on economic aid to the Soviet Union in order to give "instant support" to the beleaguered country following the defeat of a right-wing coup, but remains cool to sending massive amounts of money.

Mr. Bush is also publicly urging Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to capitalise on the rout of old-guard Kremlin hardliners by launching a far-reaching reform programme to revive the Soviet economy and speeding the pace of talks on the Baltic republic's bid for independence.

The restored U.S. aid, which was put on hold Monday after the coup that briefly swept Mr. Gorbachev from power, included \$1.5 billion in farm credits and technical assistance in revamping such areas of the Soviet economic infrastructure as food distribution and energy production.

A proposal to grant the Soviet Union most-favoured-nation trade status, which would make its exports eligible for the lowest possible U.S. tariffs, was also back on track, administration and congressional officials said.

But Mr. Bush was cool to proposals for large-scale Western financial assistance to the Soviet Union to help consolidate democratic gains — a stance that could put the United States on a collision course with other major industrial democracies.

"I don't see anything right now on that," he said. "We agreed in London on a certain path, and if there's something that we could do that would further enhance economic recovery we'll always be glad to take a look," he said.

Mr. Bush contends it would be counter-productive and wasteful to give the Soviet Union massive amounts of cash before it transformed its state-controlled economy to a free market.

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HIGH LANDER II
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

Cinema NUJUM Tel: 675571

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini Theatre
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

FAST FOR WORD
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Croatia to go on offensive in 'dirty war' with Serbs

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Croatia said Friday it would go on the offensive in a 'dirty war' with Serbian guerrillas and Yugoslav army troops it says are besieging its territory.

"We will launch offensive actions without any illusions because this is a dirty war," Croatian Defence Minister Luka Bebic said.

"We are heading for a war which could be long lasting and we cannot afford to waste any more time," he told a news conference in the rebel republic's capital Zagreb.

Mr. Bebic's warning suggested that Croatian forces would storm Serbian positions and villages to weed out the guerrillas and possibly engage the Yugoslav army in direct conflict.

Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported fresh violence Friday in the town of Pakrac, hit by some of the worst fighting last week.

It said several mortar bombs hit the town and that a fire was raging at a woodworking factory, the mainstay of the Pakrac's economy.

On Thursday, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, facing bloody conflict in at least three parts of his republic, gave federal leaders an ultimatum to curb actions by Serbian guerrillas and the army by the end of the

month. "The Yugoslav presidency should appeal to the Republic of Serbia to stop immediately the organisation and support for the armed uprising in Croatia which has as its goal the division of Croatian territory," Mr. Tudjman said.

The presidency was due to meet Friday to discuss the role of the army in the conflict.

The Hungarian News Agency (MTI) reported Friday that Yugoslav warplanes had infringed Hungarian airspace three times Thursday during missile attacks on villages in Croatia.

Major General Jozsef Biro, Hungary's deputy chief of staff, told MTI two of the eight aircraft had fired air to ground missiles at Croatian villages from Hungary's airspace.

Croatia accuses Serbia of using the rebels and the federal army, whose officer corps is dominated by Serbs, of carving out large chunks of Croatia to form the borders of a greater Serbia which would rise from the ashes of Yugoslavia.

Belgrade Television reported that seven Serbs were killed Thursday in a Croatian police attack on the village of Kinjaka, in the Banija region southeast of Zagreb.

The daily Serbian newspaper Politika said four people were killed in the attack which in-

involved two armoured vehicles. Neither report could be independently confirmed.

Police contacted in the nearby town of Sisak refused to comment directly but warned that journalists who wrote such reports "would be treated appropriately," if they turned up in the area.

At least 20 people were killed in clashes Thursday, underlining the helplessness of Yugoslavia's civilian leaders in the face of increasingly ruthless violence.

More than 250 people have been killed in Croatia in a conflict which has set village against village, neighbors against one another and created more than 100,000 refugees.

Violence began in earnest when Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25, sparking revolt by Croatia's Serbian community which refuses to live in an independent Croatia.

Defence Minister Bebic said Croatia lacked the firepower needed for an all-out conflict with the army but said Croatian factories were working on producing light weapons.

"Croatian factories are producing mortars, mortar grenades and hand grenades," he said.

Croatian police and national guardsmen have taken a beating from the rebels and the army which has hit them with tanks, artillery and aircraft.

Meanwhile MTI reported Thursday that thousands of refugees fleeing from battle-scarred Croatia are filling Hungarian shelters.

The mayor of Mohacs, 12 kilometres north of Hungary's border with Croatia, told MTI that between 6,000 and 8,000 refugees had arrived in his town since the weekend. The agency didn't give the mayor's name.

One refugee shelter in the surrounding Baranya County was reported full and other facilities were filling fast, MTI said.

According to the refugees, their towns and villages are being destroyed in clashes between Croatian security forces and armed rebel Serbs, MTI said.

The Hungarian Interior Ministry's refugee office reported that 95 per cent of the recent refugees are Croats, as opposed to the mainly ethnic Hungarians who have been leaving Serbia's Vojvodina province in the past weeks.

Smaller numbers of ethnic Hungarians and Germans, as well as Serbs were also arriving, MTI said.

Col. Janos Zubek, border police spokesman told the agency that about half of the refugees fleeing their homes in a hurry arrive with no passports.

They are allowed in on humanitarian grounds, Zubek said.

China releases prominent dissident journalist

PEKING (R) — Shanghai police have released one of China's most prominent dissident journalists after grilling him for weeks about underground dissident movements.

Zhang Weiguo, who was detained on July 30, has been freed but was banned from leaving Shanghai, friends said late Thursday.

Mr. Zhang, 34, was the Peking bureau chief of Shanghai's liberal World Economic Herald before the government shut the paper at the height of the student-led pro-democracy movement in May, 1989.

He was arrested in June that year after China's army crushed pro-democracy protests in Peking's Tiananmen Square with heavy loss of life. Though he was never tried or sentenced, he was not released until February this year.

He was detained briefly again in May when police interrogated him about his knowledge of underground anti-government publications.

A large convoy of police seized him from a relative's home in southern Zhejiang province on July 30 and transferred him to a military camp on the outskirts of Shanghai, where he was held as the sole inmate of a heavily guarded building, friends said.

No official charges were brought, but police questioned him repeatedly about possible underground dissident groups in Shanghai as well as interviews he had granted to foreign journalists and articles he had written that appeared in the Hong Kong press, they said.

He was released Wednesday with a warning not to speak to the foreign media.

Mr. Zhang is one of the very few Chinese intellectuals who still dare openly to question the government, which has clamped down tightly on dissent since the 1989 crackdown.

Meanwhile, the United States is "deeply disturbed" by news that two of China's most prominent dissidents have begun a hunger strike in prison, and is urging Peking to grant the two men amnesty.

In an official statement Friday, the U.S. embassy in Peking said it hoped China would allow independent visits to Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming, who are serving 13-year sentences for their role in the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

"Information about the transfer of these two and others to Peking prison number two, and the unhealthy conditions in which they are reportedly being held, is deeply disturbing," the statement said.

"We have expressed our strong concern to the Chinese about these conditions and about Mr. Wang's deteriorating health," it said. "We have told the Chinese we would welcome visits to Mr. Wang and Mr. Chen by outside observers."

Manila police capture NPA propaganda chief

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military announced Friday the capture of the propaganda chief of the Communist New People's Army (NPA), dealing another blow to the underground rebel movement.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadía said Roberto Roldan, 41-year-old propaganda head of the NPA's Political Department, was arrested by police and intelligence agents in a shopping complex in a Manila suburb Wednesday.

Mr. Roldan was presented to media at a press conference at the military headquarters of Camp Aguinaldo Friday, and was afterwards led away handcuffed.

The military said in a statement that Mr. Roldan was in charge of

the NPA's propaganda apparatus in the Philippines and abroad, distributing videos and pamphlets and raising funds.

"With Mr. Roldan's capture, the propaganda effort of the local Communist movement has suffered a very serious setback," Gen. Abadía said in the press statement.

"As the top Communist propagandist, Mr. Roldan ran a destructive propaganda machinery aimed at discrediting and weakening the government," the statement added.

The capture of Mr. Roldan was the latest in a series of arrests of Communist leaders by the military that has severely weakened the NPA which has been fighting for a Marxist state in the Philippines for the past 22 years.

Gorbachev feels betrayed but keeps sense of humour

MOSCOW (R) — A clearly shaken Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of his sense of betrayal by old friends but kept a sense of humour about the failed coup against him.

In the same hall where just two days ago the men who plotted his downfall gave a news conference, Mr. Gorbachev emerged from three days of Crimean house arrest looking fit and well, wearing a classic dark suit and maroon tie and with a confident stride.

But at first he seemed to have difficulty speaking — a problem he rarely experiences in public — and it was clear he had been stunned to see men he had chosen for high office turn against him.

In particular, Mr. Gorbachev said, he was hurt by the involvement of Dmitri Yavov and Vladimir Kryuchkov, the former heads of the Defence Ministry and the KGB, in the eight-member Emergency Committee which ousted him Monday.

"I believed in them," Mr. Gorbachev said of Mr. Merzhal Yavov and Mr. Kryuchkov, some of whom gave the Soviet President a standing ovation when he came in.

"Even now I have to say I did not believe Yavov was part of that group," Mr. Gorbachev said of the former defence minister, who had been an associate since Mr. Gorbachev's days as a Communist Party leader in Stavropol, in southern Russia.

"I thought maybe his name was written in just to make things look better."

As for Mr. Kryuchkov, Mr. Gorbachev said he had selected him as KGB chief because he had not been a professional spy all his life but also had a political career.

"You will say that this does not relieve me of responsibility and I know that, too... this has been a very difficult trial for me," he said.

Gorbachev, describing his Crimean ordeal, at first spoke so slowly that impatient journalists began interrupting him with questions.

But then he seemed to regain his old spirit, making energetic



Mikhail Gorbachev

podium and cracking jokes about 72 hours of isolation in his "garrison" on the Black Sea.

After the coup collapsed, many world leaders telephoned him in the Crimea. A lot of them spoke of the need for "more decisive" cooperation with the Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev said, adding that this could be one good result of the affair.

"Everyone called except (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi, (Iraqi leader Saddam) Hussein and (Latvian Communist Party chief Alfred) Rubiks," he said, prompting laughter and applause at his comparison of Rubiks with the leaders of Libya and Iraq. "Rubiks supported the coup," Gorbachev said by way of explanation to those who missed the joke.

If some of the reporters appeared to lose their objectivity in the excitement of the moment, Mr. Gorbachev also appeared more at home than he has ever been with the media.

He said he was grateful for the grilling reporters gave to the coup's leaders at the Tuesday press conference at which they sought the world's approval for their actions.

"I heard your question (on Tuesday). It was a good one," he told one Soviet reporter.

"The people stood in the way of dictatorship, but without the activity of the press, that would have been impossible."

Teenager who hit million cannot collect, court says

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A court refused to force a Nevada casino to pay an underage gambler \$1 million he won from a slot machine, and the young lawyer says he'll appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kirk Erickson of Royal, Arkansas, was 19 when he and his family visited Caesar's Palace casino in Las Vegas in August 1987. He won a jackpot of \$1,061,812 on a \$1 slot machine, but the casino checked his identification and refused to pay, since the legal age for gambling in Nevada is 21.

The 9th U.S. circuit court of appeals ruled Wednesday that Caesar's Palace doesn't have to pay Erickson. The court said that even if Erickson's jackpot was withheld fraudulently, casino winnings are gambling debts regulated solely by state law.

I. Nelson Rose, a lawyer for the Erickson family, said the young man had not known of the Nevada law. He said he had been to a racetrack in Arkansas, where the gambling age was 18. Rose said Caesar's "taught him to gamble," referring to hotel-room videotapes on the fundamentals of casino games. "They gave him small winnings to entice him to continue. They took his money when the kid lost. When he won a large amount, only then did they check his I.D.," he said.

Gorbachev's grandchild was coup hostage

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev's 4-year-old granddaughter was a blissfully ignorant hostage during the failed attempt by hardliners to oust him, he told a news conference Thursday. The Soviet president said he was held under house arrest at his vacation home along the Black Sea. With him were 32 loyal bodyguards and his immediate family — his wife Raisa, daughter Irina, son-in-law Anatoly and granddaughter, Anastasia, 11, and Anastasia, 4. "Anastasia endured it best of all. She did not understand anything and she was running around, asking everyone to take her to the beach... and we had to take her," he said. "But in the final days the guards asked us to stop, because anything could happen, anything at all. So we locked ourselves up, so to speak." With a catch in his throat, Gorbachev added that "Raisa Maximovna and my daughter took it very hard. Yesterday, Raisa Maximovna was not well."

Gorbachev listened to BBC, VOA

MOSCOW (AP) — Like many ordinary Soviets, President Mikhail Gorbachev relied on the BBC, the Voice of America and other foreign radio stations for accurate news during the attempted coup against him. Mr. Gorbachev told a news conference Thursday that his telephones were cut during the three days he spent under house arrest at his Crimean vacation retreat. The coup leaders also censored the Soviet media. "But we found some type of old receivers in maintenance rooms, and we fixed the antennas... and we began to get whatever we could from there," Mr. Gorbachev said. "We got the BBC best of all... (radio) liberty, and then the Voice of America came on," he said.

Vodka company raises toast to victory of Russians

NEW YORK (R) — Stolichnaya Russian vodka, whose fortunes have waxed and waned with the ups and downs of Soviet politics, moved quickly Thursday to capitalize on the failure of this week's coup. The vodka company unveiled a full-page advertisement to be published Friday in several major U.S. newspapers saluting the victory of the grass-roots opposition over hardline Communists who attempted to oust President Mikhail Gorbachev. The ad includes a photo of Leningrad's Palace Square, filled with Russians demonstrating against the coup. "We're prouder than ever to be Russian," says the ad. "Underneath in smaller type: 'Stolichnaya vodka.'" But Russian vodka wasn't the only thing being hawked. In Orange, California, "Gorby dolls" were the hottest selling item in a novelty shop as hundreds of customers descended on the store to snap up the likenesses of the Soviet president.

Stage, screen actress Colleen Dewhurst dies

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — Colleen Dewhurst, who more than any other American actress was associated with the plays of Eugene O'Neill, died Thursday. She was 65.

Dewhurst died at home in this New York City suburb, said Jan Struts, a spokeswoman for the Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office. Dewhurst died of natural causes, said Struts, who wouldn't elaborate.

The actress, who won two Tony Awards, also appeared on the big and small screens. She won three Emmys.

Her film roles included a minor part in this year's Dying Young which starred her son Campbell Scott, and a role Woody Allen's 1977 movie Annie Hall.

She also had been president of the Actors' Equity Union since 1985.

On Broadway, she won a Tony Award in 1974 as best actress for her performance as Josie Hogan, the lonely but big-hearted farm girl in O'Neill's A Moon For The Misbegotten.

Her last Broadway appearances were in 1988, when she alternated roles in O'Neill's masterpiece Long Day's Journey Into Night.

the playwright's exorcism of his own devastating family life, and Ah, Wilderness, his only comedy. "I always say that I am not an O'Neill expert," Dewhurst said in a 1988 interview. "I feel all I really know are his women."

"O'Neill's women have great passion, a passion for life," she said. "Nothing is done half-way."

In 1987, she had a one-woman show, written by Barbara Gelb, about the life of Carlotta Monterey, O'Neill's exotic wife.

A native of Montreal, Dewhurst and her mother moved to Wisconsin after her parents divorced when she was 13.

Dewhurst moved to New York in 1946 and studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. She made her Broadway debut of 1952 in a country dance scene in a revival of O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms.

She played Kate in producer Joe Papp's 1957 production of The Taming Of The Shrew, and won an Obie Award for her performance. She also won an Obie as the sensual Abbie Putnam in O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms.

She won a Tony for All The Way Home in 1961.

Mexico's ruling party claims victory in elections

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) — Officials of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) say they have won 290 of 300 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and all but one Senate seat, the Excelsior News Agency reported.

The Thursday evening announcement came as the federal electoral institute missed yet another deadline for producing complete returns from Sunday's national election.

The ruling party, known as PRI, lost only 10 of the 300 directly elected seats in the lower house of Congress and one of 32 Senate seats Sunday, according to Cesar Augusto Santiago, chief of the party's campaign department. He was quoted by Excelsior.

The party's public relations office, contacted late Thursday night, said it could not confirm the estimate. But scattered results from official state election boards indicated a PRI victory of the scale Santiago described.

All 10 of the non-PRI seats in the lower chamber and the lone opposition senate seat went to the conservative National Action Party. Mr. Santiago was quoted as saying.

That would be a stunning setback to the leftist movement that in 1988 won 31 per cent of the presidential vote, according to an official count widely considered suspiciously low.

Another 200 seats will be distributed according to the share of the vote that the contending parties won Sunday. With the PRI's vote share running at about 63 per cent, it could recapture the two-thirds majority needed to modify the constitution without aid from any other party.

The party earlier claimed victory in all six gubernatorial campaigns — including two still disputed by the opposition.

The Electoral Institute, meanwhile, said Thursday night it had finished counting the results in 254 of the 300 districts. But it failed to immediately announce the results in most districts, or even to provide a summary.

The institute had originally promised to have the official results counted by Wednesday night. It also promised to give unofficial results of the elections on the night of the vote — a count it has still not provided.

Institute Director General Emilio Chuayfleur told a news conference that the law sets no time limit for counting votes. But he said they should be finished by Sunday.

He blamed the slow pace of the counting on "scrupulous compliance with a process that follows the framework of the law," and on protests by opposition parties that forced time-consuming recounts of ballots.

Meanwhile a group of independent observers said Wednesday that Mexico's mid-term elections Sunday were marred by ballot-box stuffing, repeat voting and other serious irregularities that threw the ruling party's landslide victory into doubt.

In a scathing report, the group listed a catalogue of irregularities that it said raised doubts about the legitimacy of the elections for congressional and state governments' seats.

The charges included manipulation of votes, ballot box stuffing, repeat voting and fiddling with final local results.

The recently formed group, known as the Democratic Accord, or Acade, also said reforms passed by congress last year to guarantee clean and fair elections fell short of expectations.

35 hurt as plane makes emergency landing in U.S.

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — A Tokyo-bound Northwest Airlines jet, one of its four engines ablaze, made an emergency landing in Seattle Thursday and nearly 400 people evacuated the plane down safety slides, aviation officials said.

Eleven passengers were seriously injured as they left the aircraft but none of the injuries was due to the fire, Northwest spokesman Doug Miller said.

Firefighters used foam to extinguish the fire as passengers hurried through emergency exits and down inflated safety chutes to the runway at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in the northwestern United States.

"Some people were pretty shaken up," said passenger Greg Shaefter of Seattle, who was on his way to Singapore.

Northwest Flight Seven originated in Minneapolis and was bound for Tokyo with 366 passengers and 18 crew when the fire broke out in an engine shortly after takeoff from Seattle, Port of Seattle spokeswoman Barbara Stewart said.

The plane immediately turned back and the pilot notified the control tower, she said. Fire and crash equipment trailed the jet down the runway after it touched down.

"You could see the smoke and some flames," Ms. Stewart said.

In total, 35 people were treated for injuries, most of them minor, Port of Seattle spokeswoman Rachel Carson said.

Inter-Korean premiers' talks postponed until October

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea will postpone until October a meeting between their prime ministers originally scheduled for next week, Seoul officials said Friday.

A spokesman for the South-North Dialogue Office said both sides agreed to the postponement after a six-hour meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom on the border north of Seoul.

The spokesman said the meeting, already postponed from February, would be held in Pyongyang from Oct. 22 to 25.

He gave no further details, but North Korea earlier this week sought to change arrangements for the meeting ostensibly because of a cholera outbreak in South Korea.

South Korean officials and Seoul-based diplomats dismissed the expressed fear of cholera and said it appeared Pyongyang was trying to buy time while it sorted out its position with regard to the current turmoil in the Soviet Union.

TALLINN, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet troops have abandoned strategic points in the Baltic republics, providing the first tangible benefits for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania of the failed coup in Moscow.

For their part, the separatist republics exploited disarray in central government by taking further steps towards secession Thursday and purging local supporters of the hardliners who tried to seize power in Moscow.

Lithuania, the most aggressive in its claim to independence, voted to ban the Communist Party and seize its property in the republic and suspended publication of newspapers opposed to independence.

In Parliament in neighbouring Latvia, a similar measure, likely to be passed Friday.

Soviet Interior Ministry troops abandoned a television tower in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius which they stormed in January. Military commanders had for months rejected appeals by Lithuanian officials to give back the facility.

A statement from the republic's government said the troops' commander telephoned Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis to ask him to take the tower and television station back under Lithuanian control.

The January crackdown, which cost 14 lives and prompted global condemnation, was the climax of a standoff with Moscow prompted by Lithuania's independence declaration in March 1990.

This week Estonia and Latvia

responded to the coup attempt by declaring outright independence themselves.

The Latvian government said all buildings held by Soviet troops had been vacated and in Estonia Soviet soldiers left the main radio and television tower which had been taken during this week's coup attempt.

The troop withdrawals were the strongest indication yet that the collapse of the three-day attempt to overthrow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would strengthen the position — of the three republics.

In Tallinn, Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar said he wanted to involve the Russian Federation and its President Boris Yeltsin, hero of the anti-coup forces, in talks on independence. Unlike Soviet authorities, Russia has recognised Estonian sovereignty.

Estonia and Lithuania reduced central government influence on their territory. Both announced criminal investigations against those who collaborated with the conspirators.

Mr. Savisaar said heads of several Soviet-controlled factories, centres of resistance to independence would be sacked.

He also ordered the closure of a radio station opposed to independence.

Lithuania suspended publication of a host of newspapers that carried decrees of the short-lived emergency committee.

And the parliament in Vilnius, barricaded since last January's

Baltics capitalise on coup failure and purge Communists

clashes, voted to outlaw the Lithuanian Communist Party and confiscate its property.

It termed the party "an illegal organisation which aims to destroy the independence of the Republic of Lithuania by means of coercion, and to usurp power," local journalists reported.

Tension remained high in the region.

A Lithuanian was killed Wednesday night after elite Soviet commandos penetrated barricades around the Lithuanian parliament. Two civilians and three soldiers were injured.

In Latvia's capital Riga, a broadcasting official died Wednesday from injuries received when his car was hit by an armoured vehicle taking troops to occupy the radio centre.

After the event, nobody supported the coup.

For three days, while a committee of hardline conspirators tried to seize control of the Soviet Union, opposition from Communist Party, KGB and national media was conspicuously absent.

On Thursday, less than 24 hours after President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to power, all these organisations were at pains to say they were free from blame.

The KGB state security service, whose chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov was one of the chief conspirators and whose officers held Mr. Gorbachev captive for three days in his Crimean holiday home, denied responsibility.

"KGB servicemen have nothing in common with illegal actions by the group of adventur-

ists. They are aggrieved by the fact that the honour of state security bodies has been sullied by the Soviet KGB head's participation in the so-called emergency committee," the KGB ruling board announced.

The Soviet Communist Party, which Mr. Gorbachev heads, was equally adamant in pleading its innocence.

The activities of the conspirators "were secret from the party leadership, endangered the development of democratic process and dealt a serious blow to the country and the Soviet Communist Party," a statement said.

Almost simultaneously, the press office of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, a leading liberal, said he had obtained a copy of a draft resolution from the party's Central Committee supporting the coup.

A note from the secretariat had asked him to ensure party members complied with a state of emergency, the office said.

The documents prompted Mr. Nazarbayev to resign from the party's secretariat and politburo. While the conspirators closed down Russian Republican television, which would probably have resisted them, central television stayed open throughout, interspersing the committee's decrees with plenty of circus, ballet and classical music.

But Thursday's liberal daily Izvestia quoted the head of Central Television, Leonid Kravchenko, as saying that broadcast-

ing serious music had been a kind of protest.

Mr. Kravchenko, appointed by Mr. Gorbachev last year, was declared disarmed Wednesday by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin though it was unclear whether the order had any effect.

Television presenter Pavel Ogorodnikov said most television journalists had refused to work for the coup regime and signed an appeal to Mr. Yeltsin to sack Mr. Kravchenko.

The reader on Thursday's national news programme Vremya announced: "These are the pictures that we should have shown on the night of Tuesday the 20th."

Two days later, dramatic Beethoven music accompanied footage of soldiers shooting demonstrators who tried to stop tanks loyal to the coup smashing through their barricades.